



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
ELPIDIO QUIRINO
1948-1953

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Official Month in Review

President's Month in Review: May, 1948

The Official Month in Review

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, speaking before a huge crowd of labor leaders and workingmen on the occasion of the celebration of Labor Day on May 1, said that he will work out a happy partnership of labor and capital as the basis of economic recovery and progress, and urged the workingmen in various industrial and agricultural unions to cooperate with his administration toward this end.

“We have in our statute books quite a number of good laws and regulations indicating our deep concern for the welfare of labor,” he said. “What is perhaps needed at this time is an honest-to-goodness application of these statutes with a view to a maximum realization of their beneficent purposes,” the President emphasized in his address.

After delivering the principal address to labor groups, the Chief Executive spoke to representatives of capital. In the course of his extemporaneous speech, the President declared that peace and unity are essential between capital and labor. He also urged the creation of a labor-capital advisory board that should thresh out problems confronting both groups in a round table composed of representatives of labor and capital, with the government acting as a ballast in the discussion of matters pertaining to their relations.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino called a meeting of his cabinet at the Tagaytay Ridge Club on May 4. This was the first out-of-town cabinet meeting since he assumed the presidency.

As part of his policy to bring the Government closer to the people, the President instructed his cabinet members to go out to the provinces oftener and personally look into local conditions.

The President signed the Census Bill of 1948 providing for the taking of a general census starting October 1, this year. As prescribed in this measure, the census-taking will last for one month, concluding not later than November 1, and proclaimed and published not later than the end of this year.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, on May 10, ordered the release of ₱30,000,000 as public works fund, principally for the construction or reconstruction — as the case may be — of national roads and bridges. This public works program is expected to provide employment for about 100,000 persons.

Of the total amount of ₱30,000,000 released by the Department of Public Works upon order of the President, ₱24,000,000 came from the 1947-1948 rehabilitation funds given by the United States Public Roads Administration, and ₱6,000,000 from the government gasoline fund.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, as principal speaker on the occasion of the repatriation on May 15, of the first batch of American dead of World War II, pledged the total support of the Philippines to America's fight for peace and freedom.

“In the presence of this heroic dead,” President Quirino declared, “let us pledge to prosecute the mission they have died to fulfill, to honor and love America, to fight her cause of justice and equality, of individual liberty, security and freedom here and everywhere.

“Never in the history of mankind has one people given so much of its own in friendship to another as these gallant men gave to the Filipinos in the name of their fatherland.”

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino established what veteran legislators called a precedent when he paid surprise visits to the Senate and House of Representatives on the eve of their adjournment of the last Congress on May 20.

Speaking on the achievements of the Congress, the President said: “The last session of Congress has been a most productive and constructive legislative session characterized by party harmony, inter-house coordination and

constructive party opposition*** More bills than usual have been approved and many of them are of transcendental importance buttressing the foundation of our economic stability and advancing our work in social amelioration.”

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, on May 26, made a tour of the city’s fire-devastated areas, inquired into the relief needs of fire-victims on the spot, and immediately thereafter talked with city authorities about positive measures for preventing fires and improving the metropolitan fire-fighting equipment.

WHEN a long-needed face-lifting, re-painting and refurnishing of Malacañan Palace had fairly started, President Elpidio Quirino, in the evening of May 28, moved into the historic building which has been the official residence of Philippine chief executives since Spanish times. This day, incidentally, marked the second anniversary of the inauguration of President Quirino as Vice-President of the Republic.

The Chief Executive had as house guest His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, who arrived in the late evening from New York via Hongkong with a party of fourteen distinguished American prelates who came here for a three-day visit as guests of the Philippine Government.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: June, 1948

The Official Month in Review

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, during the month, signed a total of 118 House and 7 Senate bills, and exercised his power of veto over 24 measures, out of some 151 passed by the Congress in the last regular session. Principal bills signed included House Bill No. 1491, authorizing the retirement and redemption of the circulating notes lawfully issued by the Philippine National Bank and the registration and deposit of such notes illegally issued; House Bill No. 1692, increasing the sales tax on luxuries from 20 per cent to 30 per cent and semi-luxuries from 10 per cent to 15 per cent; House Bill No. 1693, authorizing the Philippine Government to negotiate for a loan not exceeding ₱200,000,000 with which to finance their initial steps in the industrialization of the country (all signed on June 1); House Bill No. 1890, otherwise known as the Public Works Bill, appropriating ₱56,020,000 for public works (signed on June 14); House Bill No. 1704, creating the Central Bank, which the President hailed as the charter "of our economic sovereignty" (signed on June 15); the "Armed Forces Officer Personnel Act of 1948," which provides for the procurement, promotion and elimination of regular officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (signed on June 16); House Bill No. 1953, otherwise known as the "backpay" measure (signed on June 18); and House Bill No. 944, the "Public School Salary Act of 1948," which provides for revised salary allocations and automatic salary increases for public school officials, teachers and other school personnel (signed on June 19).

SPEAKING to members of the National Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations the Philippines and the Philippine Public School Teachers Association, in whose honor he gave a tea at Malacañan on June 3, President Elpidio Quirino said that public school teachers in the Philippines deserve greater consideration from the Government and assured them he would sign the Public School Salary Bill. (The President signed the bill on June 19.)

AS principal speaker at the 50th anniversary celebration of the declaration of independence promulgated in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898, the President, addressing a large group of veterans of the Revolution from the balcony of the historic home of General Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit on June 12, appealed to them to help make this Republic survive the unreasonable attacks of certain Filipinos who have been trying to lower the dignity of the present administration. Speaking extemporaneously, the President decried that now that we are enjoying the liberty and independence that we fought for centuries to achieve, some should deliberately try to "destroy the fruit of our struggles and even the good name of our race."

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, on the morning of June 13, received in the Social Hall of Malacañan a delegation of the USAFIP NL, led by their commanding general, Brig. Gen. Calixto Duque, who paid their respects to the Chief Executive on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Fall of Bessang Pass. The delegation took up with the President matters pertaining to the welfare of the veterans and urged that the Government take steps to insure security of the nation in view of the present international situation.

A PLEA for friendship and goodwill above partisan politics was made by the President in a brief talk at a dinner he gave on June 17 in Malacañan in honor of majority and minority senators and members of the cabinet. He pointed out that the responsibility for the success of the Government depends not only upon the Liberal Party but also upon the Opposition, the Nacionalista Party. The role of the Opposition, he said, should not be limited to criticism and obstruction but should also include cooperation with the majority in those programs of government that are essentially non-political and non-partisan in nature.

FOLLOWING secret negotiations between Luis M. Taruc, Hukbalahap chief, and Judge Antonio Quirino, the President's brother, the Hukbalahap supremo, with seven leading associates, finally presented himself to President Elpidio Quirino at Malacañan late afternoon of June 21. The historic meeting was immediately followed by a Presidential proclamation, at 6:25 p.m., granting amnesty to the Hukbalahap and PKM organizations. The following day, the President sent a copy of the amnesty proclamation to the Congress together with a letter urging immediate legislative concurrence in the proclamation. The President told the Congress that he had issued the amnesty proclamation in the belief that it will insure peace and order and the resumption of the normal processes of government in the troubled areas of the country. In the longest *sine die* session on record, the Congress concurred in

the Presidential proclamation early morning of June 25 and less than two hours later, at 6:30 a. m., the House of Representatives voted to seat Luis M. Taruc as representative for the second district of Pampanga.

SPEAKING as guest of honor of the Manila Rotary Club on June 24, President Elpidio Quirino declared that amnesty has assured peace of mind among the people and will result in the resumption of economic prosperity in the troubled areas of the country, as well as prevent further loss of life and property through fratricidal wars. "Our moral influence abroad is enhanced because we have shown what we can do if we just employ intelligence and good will in the solution of even our most bloody conflicts," he said.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino told a big delegation of sidewalk vendors who marched to Malacañan in the morning of June 26, that he did not wish to commit himself on their petition to be allowed to continue doing business on Manila's streets. He said that while he was sympathetic with and responsive to their request, he believed in the principle of the separation of powers upon which the Government is based.

Meanwhile, at 11:20 a.m. the same day, the Philippine flag was raised by Dr. Diosdado Macapagal, Department of Foreign Affairs officer, over Taganak Island, biggest of the islets comprising the Turtle and Mangsee Islands. The brief ceremony marked the formal transfer of the administration of the islands group to the Government of the Philippine Republic. Shortly after the flag-raising, Princess Tarhata Kiram, deputy governor of the southernmost islands of the Republic, unveiled a marker erected by the Philippines Historical Committee.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, Congressman Luis M. Taruc, Judge Antonio Quirino, Brig. Gen. Mariano Castañeda and Col. Alberto Ramos, Chief and Chief of Staff, respectively, of the Philippine Constabulary, conferred at length in Malacañan on June 27 on a two-pronged implementation of the President's amnesty proclamation. One prong concerned the early surrender of Taruc's men and the other prong had for its objective the immediate launching of a program of social amelioration as a consequence of amnesty. It was agreed that General Castañeda and Congressman Taruc would map out the places of surrender and the units to surrender in those places. Regarding the second phase, Taruc offered several plans to the President which the latter promised to consider.

AT the regular cabinet meeting on June 29, President Elpidio Quirino defined the policy of the Government as one of liberal and sympathetic attitude to private schools. He instructed Acting Secretary of Public Instruction Prudencio Langcauon to regard the efforts of private parties to set up and run schools with sympathy and to give them proper encouragement in view of the lack of adequate school facilities in many Philippine communities.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: July, 1948

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE Philippines owes much to General George P. Moore because he has rendered service to its people both in war and in peace, President Elpidio Quirino declared at the farewell banquet he gave the evening of July 1 in Malacañan Palace for the retiring commander of PHILRYCOM and his wife. Responding, General Moore expressed abiding faith in and affection for the country and the Filipinos, the Philippines, he said, being their second home. The Moores left on July 2 for the United States.

SECRETARY of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon, representing the Philippine Government and Rear Admiral Ralph Christie, representing the United States Government, signed an agreement between the two governments for the transfer of title of vessels turned over, by the U. S. Navy to the Philippine Naval Patrol in a ceremony held at 10 a. m. on July 2 at the Office of the National Defense Secretary. As of July 2, 1948, 95 vessels of different categories had been transferred to the Philippine Government.

IN receiving on July 2 a delegation of American businessmen who came to attend the Regional Trade Conference in Manila, President Quirino declared that the Philippines is peaceful, hospitable, and generous to American investment. The President made special mention of the oil possibilities of the Philippines and outlined to his visitors the oil policy recently adopted by the Government. W. P. Fuller Brawner, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, who acted as spokesman for the group, expressed the belief that American capital would flow to the Philippines after actual conditions in the country were better known by American investors.

AMBASSADOR Joaquin M. Elizalde (Washington) on July 2 reported by cablegram to President Quirino that President Harry S. Truman had signed the Taft Bill extending hospitalization privileges to Filipino veterans.

ON the eve of Independence Day (July 4), President Quirino issued 58 pardons. Of the total number 22 were absolute pardons, 9 special absolute pardons, 26 conditional pardons, and 1 commutation and remission of sentence.

THE Philippines "has made an outstanding progress as a new nation," President Harry S. Truman declared in a cable received on July 3 by President Quirino, congratulating the President of the Philippines and the Filipino people on the occasion of the second anniversary of Philippine independence. Similar congratulatory messages were received by the President from other heads of states the world over, including Regent Juliana of the Netherlands, Chief of State Franco of Spain, Foreign Minister Evatt of Australia, and others. In his called reply to President Truman on the same day, President Quirino said: "I am most grateful, Mr. President, for your kind message on the second anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines. In the name of the people of the Philippines and in my own I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous appraisal of our progress. I am sure I bespeak the sentiment of the Filipino people in reiterating to you and through you to the American people and government our deepest appreciation for the kind assistance we continue to receive from you and for your manifest solicitous concern for the future of the Philippine Republic. God bless you and America."

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, in his Independence Day address at the Luneta on July 4, declared that "to the Philippines, Fourth of July signifies both freedom to the Filipinos and gratitude to America." To America, he said, "aside from being also the historic day of her freedom, it is now properly a continuous source of justifiable pride for the liberty she made possible for us to enjoy. To both countries, it should likewise signify from now on the periodic reaffirmation of faith, friendship, and confidence in one another, based on their solemn covenants and mutual commitments." Concluding, the President declared: "On this very spot, two years ago, the highest, representative of the United States Government, on proclaiming our independence, asked if the Republic of the Philippines then just born would survive. Our dear friend for whom our prayers shall never end, the first President of our Republic, Manuel Roxas, promptly answered 'It will live and endure the shock of time.' In his memory and with the greatest resolve I can muster I wish today to repeat to the world: *This Republic lives and shall endure the shock of all times!*"

STATING that "the promotion of social justice in order to insure the well-being and economic security of all the people is a constitutional and moral responsibility of our Government," President Quirino on July 7 signed

Executive Order No. 150 creating the Social Security Study Commission to “undertake a thorough and careful investigation of the social and economic problems of our working classes, conduct researches on advanced social security systems, study the rates and characteristics of risks or hazards confronting the working classes, and establish actuarial tables based on a social insurance program at least cost to both employer and employee.”

BY Presidential designation, Friday, October 1, 1948 has been declared Census Day, “on which date the enumeration of the population and the collection of all pertinent social and economic data about the Philippines shall begin and proceed on consecutive days from daylight to darkness, including Sundays and holidays, until completed.”

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 9 finally decided on the petition of cockpits, night clubs, cabarets, dancing schools and dance halls by giving them 90 days within which to move their establishments to non-prohibited zones. The President declared emphatically that he will not extend this time nor will he entertain any reconsideration for the petition for amendment of the executive orders regulating places of amusement.

BY signing House Bill No. 1794, now Republic Act No. 330, the President paved the way for the establishment of a system of import control over non-essentials and luxury articles. The Act sets up an Import Control Board composed of the Secretary of Commerce and Industry as chairman, the Undersecretary of Finance and the General Manager of the PRATRA, as members, upon whose recommendation the President shall fix and allocate quotas of the quantity of such goods which may be permitted to enter the country.

THE all-important Capital Site bill (H. No. 2003), now Republic Act No. 333, was signed by President Quirino the morning of July 17. It is “an act to establish the capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the National Government (Quezon City), to create a Capital City Planning Commission, to appropriate funds for the acquisition of private estates within the boundary limits of said city, and to authorize the issuance of bonds of the National Government for the acquisition of private estates, for the subdivision thereof, and for the construction of streets, bridges, waterworks, sewerage and other municipal improvements in the Capital City.”

BY Presidential Proclamation on July 15, and upon the request of Huk leader Luis M. Taruc, the period of the amnesty in favor of members of the Hukbalahap and the PKM had been extended to July 31. A final extension, this time up to August 15, was subsequently granted by the President.

“I HAVE not authorized anyone to launch my candidacy for the presidency or A to team me with any particular person,” President Quirino declared in a press statement released by Malacañan the night of July 22. The President was constrained to make the statement due to a persistent nationwide campaign in favor of a Quirino-Zulueta team for 1949.

A SIX-PRONGED program of social amelioration was adopted by President Quirino and his Social Amelioration Advisory Commission at the first meeting of this body on July 22 in the Council of State room, Malacañan. In opening the meeting, the President declared that the improvement of the conditions of the masses is a common concern of all, adding that improving the life of the masses is the special concern of his administration officially and of himself personally. The six-point program agreed upon is as follows: (1) The agricultural aspect which will include the acquisition of some existing haciendas, the opening of agricultural colonies, and the furnishing of seedlings, implements and perhaps work animals; (2) the public works aspect which will include the launching of a full-dress program of road, bridge and other constructions for which appropriations are available; (3) the educational program which will mean the immediate opening of extension classes for the children of dissidents and displaced persons, the organization of vocational training and the institution of adult education; (4) the financial aspect which will include crop and home-building loans from the Philippine National Bank; (5) the relief aspect which will consist of the distribution of food, clothing and other immediate assistance to all those who are in need through the Welfare Commission; and (6) the medical aspect which will include the reactivation of the moving clinic program of the provincial and national health services.

THE sentence of death by hanging imposed by the Military Commission upon Chusiro Kudo, the so-called “Butcher” of Bay, Laguna, was confirmed on July 23 by President Quirino, the execution to take place in the new

Bilibid Prison in Muntinglupa, Rizal. The Commission found the, former captain in the Japanese Army of occupation in the Philippines guilty of three crimes all committed in or near Bay, Laguna, on or about February 9, 1945.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 23 created the Quezon City Planning Commission composed of the following: Juan Arellano, chairman and manager; Jose Paez, Ponciano Bernardo, Salvador Araneta, Ernesto Rufino, Manuel Mañosa and Pio Joven, members; and Cesar Concio, executive secretary. The Commission is charged with the task of drafting the master plan for the new Quezon City which embraces an area of over 16,000 hectares. After their plan is approved by the President, they will next direct and supervise its execution. The commissioners were subsequently inducted on July 27 along with the two new governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation—Eugenio Ealdama and Carlos Rivilla.

THE exchange of ratifications of the treaty of friendship and general relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Spanish State took place the afternoon of. Sunday, July 25, 1948, in Malacañan Palace. President Elpidio Quirino, concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Spanish Minister Teodomiro Aguilar, signed the ratification for their respective Governments, thus giving it effectivity. The treaty was signed on September 27, 1947 and subsequently concurred in by the Philippine Senate and the Spanish Cortes.

PRESIDENT Quirino the night of July 26 completed his work on the bills passed by the Congress during its special session by approving three bills ,and vetoing three. One of the three bills approved was House Bill No. 1865 establishing a uniform, retirement system for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The other bill signed by the President, Senate Bill No. 345, provides for the lifting of the debt moratorium as regards prewar obligations subject to certain conditions. The President vetoed the bills on mining, civil and architectural engineering on the ground that their enforcement will interfere with the program of the Government for rehabilitation and reconstruction. However, he suggested that the Congress improve the bills further as they contain provisions that will prove beneficial to the professions.

“**THE** Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway have fought together for the preservation of the same ideals in the last war. Our common desire to maintain democratic institutions and develop friendly, economic and commercial relations will redound, I am sure, to a greater understanding among our peoples and the strengthening of the ties of friendship that bind them.” Thus declared President Elpidio Quirino in. welcoming Minister Nicolai Aal, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Norway to the Republic of the Philippines, upon his presentation of credentials, in Malacañan Palace, the afternoon of Tuesday, July 27, 1948.

A LABOR-MANAGEMENT Advisory Board to assist the Chief Executive and the various agencies of the Government in the formulation of labor policies and in the settlement of labor disputes, was created by President Quirino on July 28 through Executive Order No. 158. On the same day, he issued Proclamation No. 84 designating the period from August 19 to September 19, 1948, “Anti-Tuberculosis Month” and authorizing the Philippine Tuberculosis Society to conduct a national fund and educational drive during the said period.

PRESIDENT Quirino was informed on July 29 by Justice Sabino Padilla, a member of the committee previously created by the President to name two Filipino and two non-Filipino jurists for the International Court of Justice of the United Nations, that the committee’s Filipino nominees were former Supreme Court Justice Claro M. Recto and Justice Jose B. L. Reyes of the Court of Appeals. Besides Justice Padilla, the other members of the nominating committee are former Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña, former Secretary of Justice Jose P. Laurel, and former U. P. President Jorge Bocobo. Other member nations of the United Nations will submit a similar number of nominees on the basis of two nationals and two non-nationals. From these nominees, the General Assembly of the UN will choose the men to fill the vacancies in the World Court.

MISS Vicky Quirino, the President’s daughter, and her party were accorded a rousing welcome by the Spanish Government at Barajas airport, Madrid, Spain, the afternoon of Sunday, July 25, 1948, according to a cable received by the Department of Foreign Affairs from Philippine legation officials in Madrid. High ranking Spanish officials who greeted the party included Foreign Affairs Minister Alberto Martin Artajo; Chief of Protocol Mariano Amoedo of the Foreign Affairs ministry; Undersecretary of Justice Arcenegui; Alfonso de Celis, representative of the mayor

of Madrid; Marques de la Valdavia; and Lorenzo Correa of the Tabacalera. Philippine Charge d'Affaires Manuel Nieto told the Spanish press that Miss Quirino is the "envoy par excellence of the spiritual longings of the Filipino people of today of whom her father is the most ardent exponent."

UNITED STATES Acting Secretary of Labor David A. Morse, in a letter to President Quirino, compliments "the fine spirit of cooperation" displayed toward the United States Government by the Philippine delegation to the ILO conference at San Francisco. Morse made special mention of the "outstanding" work done at the conference by Secretary of Labor Pedro Magsalin, chairman of the delegation. Other members of the delegation were Juan L. Lanting, Conrado Benitez, Aurelio Quitoriano, Vicente L. Pastrana, Eladio D. Daya, Jose Muaña, Ruperto Cristobal, Aurelio Intertas and Pedro Fernandez.

TAKING exception to allegations made by Col. Robert H. McCormick, publisher of the *Chicago-Tribune*, in a speech before the American Club in Paris, France, on July 30, that the Philippines is at present subject to American financial and military "direction," President Quirino said, "We never accepted, as we cannot accept, American direction in our military and financial positions. Mutual assistance is the essence of such pacts. . . . Our financial, trade and military relations with the United States are all based on bilateral covenants. The Philippines was actuated to enter into these covenants by its desire to open its resources to American investments which we consider of great help to our economic development and, what is more, to our immediate reconstruction and rehabilitation. . . .The military agreement with the United States was entered into by the Philippine Republic on a mutually beneficial basis; namely, for the protection of Philippine and American interests in this country and for the maintenance of peace in the Orient. . . . That the United States has graciously decided to assist us in order to rise from our prostration brought about by the last World War is more a recognition of our exemplary conduct as an ally in the last conflict than as a solicitous help from a well-meaning ally which converted our country doubly a battle ground."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: August, 1948

The Official Month in Review

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino on August 2 further extended to August 15 the period of the amnesty grant to members of the Hukbalahap and the PKM. The new extension was the last authorized by law.

IMPLEMENTATION of the six-point program of social amelioration previously approved by President Quirino and his advisers was taken up August 3 both in the Cabinet meeting and in the meeting of a new body created by the President to execute the program. The new group was tentatively called "The President's Action Commission on Social Amelioration."

IN a brief ceremony in the Council of State room, Malacañan, at 11 a. m. on August 3, President Quirino, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, received from James Mel. Henderson, Philippine Alien Property Administrator of the United States, a subdivision of 29,125 square meters situated in Tondo, Manila; a parcel of land containing 24,000 square meters in Quezon City; and 20 shares of non-par value capital stock of the Shoko Shimpo Sha, Inc., a Japanese-owned corporation. The instruments of transfer were signed in the presence of United States Charge d'Affaires Thomas Lockett; Loren Laughlin, acting chief, legal division; Ricardo Rodriguez, assistant general counsel; Alfredo Fernando, attorney, legal division, all of the Philippine Alien Property Administration; and Acting Secretary Bernabe Africa of Foreign Affairs, Secretary Ruperto Kangleon of National Defense, and Executive Secretary Emilio Abello, representing the Philippine Government.

IN accordance with an Administrative Order which he issued on June 19, 1948, providing for the creation of a Commission to advise the President "on the problems affecting the rehabilitation of the sugar industry and readjusting it to the conditions vitally affecting its existence after the expiration of the duty-free period of eight years provided for in the Executive Agreement of July 4, 1946 between the Philippines and the United States," President Quirino on August 4 constituted the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission, as follows: Vicente Carmona, president of the Philippine National Bank (representing banking and finance), chairman; and Jose Yulo, former Speaker and member of the Council of State; Ildefonso Coscolluela, manager of the PRATRA and president of the National Federation of Sugar Planters; Juan Cojuangco, manager of the Paniqui Sugar Central; and Dr. Manuel L. Roxas, Malacañan science adviser, members. Yulo and Cojuangco will represent the centrals' side of the industry, while Coscolluela and Roxas, the planters' side.

PRESIDENT Quirino appointed Budget Commissioner Pio Pedrosa as Philippine delegate to the meeting of the nine-nation panel of the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee of the International Trade Organization, United Nations, held in Geneva from August 15 to 26. The Geneva Conference was expected to consider the report of the General Secretary on the Charter of the International Trade Organization drafted in Havana, Cuba, at the conference held there last year. It was indicated that the result of the Geneva deliberations would accompany the Charter which would then be referred to the Executive Committee and eventually to the 58-member nations. It will be recalled that at the Havana Conference, the Philippines was represented by a full delegation consisting of Executive Secretary Emilio Abello as chairman; Senator Tomas Cabili, Mateo Occeña, Philippine Purchasing Agent in New York; Urbano Zafra, Abdon Llorente, and Leonides Virata of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as members.

THE "full powers" for the following Philippine delegates and alternates to the session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris beginning in September, were signed on August 4 by President Quirino: Carlos P. Romulo as chairman; and Congressman Quintin Paredes, Senator Cabili, Minister Domingo Imperial to Rome, and Consul General Jose P. Melencio for New York, as members; and S. P. Lopez, Jose P. Ingles, Renato Constantino and Antonio Chanco, as alternates and advisers. In the Embassy in Washington, promotions were given to the following: Melquiades Gamboa, Counselor; Tomas C. Benitez, Second Secretary; Jose Teodoro, Commercial Attache; Urbano Zafra, Commercial Counselor; Justiniano Quirino, Second Secretary; E. Torres, Second Secretary; and V. Paredes, Technical Assistant. On the staff of Ambassador Romulo at Lake Success, Lopez, Ingles and Constantino were extended promotions, while the following comprised the new appointees: Mauro Mendez as Legal Adviser, in addition to Ingles and Victovio Carpio, with assimilated Foreign Affairs Officer rank; Romeo Cristobal

as Technical Assistant; and Angelica Belarmino as Assistant. In the home office, the President designated Felino Neri (Foreign Affairs Officer and former Consul for Amoy) Acting Counselor on Political and Economic Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Previously, the President had designated Bernabe Africa as Acting Secretary of the Department and Teodoro Evangelista as Acting Undersecretary.

CONTINUING to win the heart of the Spanish nation, Miss Victoria "Vicky" Quirino, daughter of the President, saw her first bull fight during the first week of August in Valencia, with the most popular *matador* of the region toasting to her the bull he was to kill by throwing his hat into her box while the public cheered wildly shouting "Viva Filipinas!" Report of the event was cabled to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila by Charge d'Affaires Manuel Nieto of the Philippine Legation in Madrid. The Spanish ovation for the President's daughter reached its climax when Spanish Foreign Minister Artajo on August 7 decorated her with the "Lazo de la Dama Catolica," highest Spanish decoration available to women and previously awarded only to Eva Peron, wife of the President of Argentina.

DURING his first press conference for the month of August, President Quirino took occasion to deny reports carried in certain sections of the local press that there is a secret trade pact between the Philippines and Japan. The President said that what had been played up as a secret pact was merely an exchange of notes between the Philippines and SCAP to serve as a *modus vivendi* for restricted trade between the Philippines and Japan through SCAP.

THE Philippines gained not only publicity but the goodwill of 33 nations through her participation in the recent Milan Fair in Italy, Undersecretary of Commerce Cornelio Balmaceda reported to President Quirino on his return from Europe on August 9. Undersecretary Balmaceda and Judge Guillermo Guevara of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, who constituted the Philippine delegation to Milan, put up an exhibit at the Milan Fair with the help of the PRATRA, the Bureau of Commerce, the National Coconut Corporation, the National Tobacco Corporation, the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation, the Bureau of Forestry and the Bureau of Mines. Private Philippine firms who joined the Chamber of Commerce on invitation of the Government included the Philippine Air Lines, Elizalde & Co., Inc., Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas, El Dorado Trading Co., Inc., Louis Dreyfus & Co., and the South Sea Traders Corporation.

SCHOOL authorities may not force any student to salute the Philippine flag if to do so is against his religious belief, Secretary of Justice Rqman Ozaeta ruled in connection with an inquiry made by Rustico Fernandez, principal of the Central Elementary School of Tagbilaran, Bohol. It appeared that a Grade II pupil in that school had consistently refused to salute the flag during flag ceremonies on the ground that she and her parents were members of a religious sect known as "Jehovah's Witnesses" and that saluting the flag was a violation of their fundamental belief. In another ruling, Secretary Ozaeta stated that an American citizen who takes an oath of office in which he swears allegiance, not to the Constitution of the Philippines, but to "the Supreme authority of the United States of America in the Philippines," cannot be said to have taken an unqualified oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and as such his oath is invalid and of no legal effect. The opinion was given in answer to an inquiry from the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, regarding the case of Jiminiano Agtarap Febenita, an American citizen who was appointed teacher of biology in a public high school on July 1, 1947.

NOMINATIONS by the Philippine committee to the United Nations' International Court of Justice were completed on August 14 with the selection of the following two non-Filipino nominees: Hsu Mo of China and Sir Senegal Narasinga Rau of India. Of international renown, both jurists have been selected from a list on the basis of "achievements in the field of international law." The Committee had previously nominated Claro M. Recto, former Supreme Court justice, and J. B. L. Reyes, Court of Appeals member, as the Filipino nominees.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 16 appealed to the PRATRA branch managers to "inspire the people's confidence and absolute trust that what we are doing is for their interest." The occasion was the official call made on the President by the 62 PRATRA branch managers who were then holding a conference in Manila. The delegation was led by PRATRA General Manager Ildefonso Coscolluela, Secretary of Commerce Placido L. Mapa and Undersecretary Cornelio Balmaceda.

THE Council of State at its regular meeting held in Malacañan on August 16 approved the opening of additional extension classes numbering about 6,000 in order to accommodate all children seeking admission to elementary grades. Some 3,000 extension classes had previously been opened on August 1. The total number of 9,000 extension classes will accommodate some 541,337 students, of which 412,180 are in the primary grades, and 129,657 in the intermediate grades.

THE President and his Cabinet on August 17 authorized the Department of Foreign Affairs to instruct Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde in Washington to make representations with the American Government for the delivery to the Philippines of advance reparations goods as had been authorized by the Far Eastern Commission way back in 1946. To date, the Philippines has received from Japan only two of eleven categories of interim reparations; namely, machine tools and laboratory equipment.

PUBLIC support of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society is the most logical and effective means of fighting the White Plague, one of the country's deadliest enemies, President Quirino declared on August 18 in a brief radio address broadcast by all radio stations to the nation from Malacañan. The appeal was made on the eve of the launching of the 1948 Anti-Tuberculosis Drive which was set from August 19 to September 19, 1948, through a proclamation signed by the President on July 28.

FOLLOWING the decision of the Republic of the Philippines to extend *de facto* recognition to the new Korean Government, President Quirino on August 18 instructed Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Bernabe Africa to transmit immediately to Seoul the communication of recognition. The recognition, transmitted on August 19 by the Department of Foreign Affairs to Syngman Rhee, president of the Republic of Korea, was in the form of a message of felicitations signed by the President himself. Subsequently, on August 24, it was learned that as a result of this recognition, the Korean Republic is sending a goodwill mission to the Philippines headed by Dr. Chough who will have the personal rank of Ambassador. Incidentally, the Philippines is represented on the United Nations Temporary Commission in Korea by Senator Melecio Arranz as delegate and Dr. Rufino Luna as alternate and adviser. Both have worked actively in the drafting of the laws and regulations that governed the Korean elections on May 10, 1948, which the Commission supervised.

AT a conference held in Malacañan on August 19, presided by President Quirino and attended by Secretaries Placido L. Mapa of Commerce and Industry and Roman Ozaeta of Justice, Servillano de la Cruz, president-chairman of the NARIC, and Idefonso Coscolluela, general manager of the PRATRA, a systematic plan for the distribution of NARIC rice in Manila and the provinces was adopted. Under the plan, the NARIC will continue to distribute in the places where it now has representatives, and to utilize PRATRA representatives in the places where no NARIC representatives are available.

SOME 80 District Census Supervisors, headed by Director Leon Ma. Gonzales and Assistant Director Horacio Lava of the Bureau of the Census and Statistics, called on President Quirino on August 20 to pay their respects before leaving for their respective districts following an intensive four-day training in Manila. Addressing the group, the President counselled them to bear in mind that they are agents of the National Government and not of any organization, political or otherwise, and that they should so conduct their work in the field as to make the resultant statistics gathered a veritable "Bible not only for us here in the Philippines but also for people abroad."

WIDESPREAD enthusiasm over the President's social amelioration program in Central Luzon provinces was reported by Hilarion Silayan, PACSA Executive Officer, following his inspection trip to Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac. Silayan said that the people were specially interested in the emergency crop loan aid now available to all deserving tenants and farmers in the provinces.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 23 appealed to the members of the Labor-Management Advisory Board to approach their problems "with broadmindedness and the greatest impartiality" and "always in a spirit of conciliation" with a view to rendering "heart and soul solutions" to labor and management problems and avoiding long-drawn-out court litigations. The President made the appeal in the course of a brief and informal conference with the board members in his office in the Executive Building at Malacañan.

BEGINNING August 27, 1948, airlines of the Philippine Republic can “pick up and discharge international commercial traffic passengers, cargo, and mail at Guam,” in accordance with a new agreement entered into between the American and Philippine Governments. An exchange of notes on the matter took place at 3 p. m. on August 26, at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

A WAR damage agreement was formally signed by the representatives of the Philippine Republic and the United States Philippine War Damage Commission on August 28, under which the Philippines will receive a total of ₱110,000,000 with which to rebuild or repair hospitals, schools and other government buildings. American Charge d’Affaires Thomas H. Lockett signed for the U. S. Government, while Secretary of Public Works and Communications Ricardo Nepomuceno signed in behalf of the Philippine Republic.

REHABILITATION of the Philippine tobacco industry was assured on August 27 when President Quirino re-constituted the board of directors and approved the appointment of Vicente Formoso as new manager and gave the green light to inject a ₱3,000,000-shot into the industry’s withering arm.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 27 gathered together all the entities concerned with the building of the new Capital City and set them to work in clear coordination, instructing them to speed up their respective assignments to the uttermost possible. Chairman Juan Arellano of the Capital City Planning Commission assured the President that the master plan would be ready in about two months. On the other hand, the Engineering and Architectural Mission which the Government had sent abroad recently, was instructed by the President to proceed with the designing and drafting of the plans for the government buildings in the Capital City area.

ACCOMPANIED by Chairman Bienvenido Gonzalez of the National Housing Corporation and newspapermen and photographers, President Quirino on August 28 visited the Government Housing Project in Quezon City. Vicente Fragarte, general manager of the project, informed the President that 90 of the 300 buildings in the first section of the project would be ready for occupancy by September. The buildings will be rented to low-salaried employees and private individuals who have no land of their own, for as low as P20 a month, it was indicated. The entire project is calculated to accommodate some 734 unit families.

FOLLOWING the regular meeting of the Cabinet on August 31, it was learned that three big haciendas will be considered for acquisition by the Government, to be sub-divided and resold to tenants. These haciendas are those of the Quezon family in Arayat, Pampanga; of Felipe Buencamino in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija; and of Secretary of Education Manuel Gallego, also in Nueva Ecija. At the same Cabinet meeting, the President announced that the Philippine Republic and the Republic of Argentina have mutually agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives immediately. The Cabinet also decided that, provided that all the iron ore will be converted into building and construction materials and that these materials be shipped back to the Philippines to the limit of local needs, the Philippine Iron Mines, Inc., may comply with the insistent request of SCAP to ship 200,000 tons of iron ore to Japan over a period of 12 months.

DURING the month under review, President Quirino delivered two principal speeches in public—the one he gave extemporaneously at the Youth Rally of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Rizal Stadium the afternoon of August 14, and the address he gave at the 70th Quezon Birthday Anniversary celebration at Quezon City the morning of August 22. (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for complete texts of these addressees*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: September, 1948

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino on September 3 called an emergency meeting of the Cabinet to consider the matter of relief to typhoon and flood victims in Central-Luzon and to extend all-out succor to the some 50,000 inhabitants of Camiguin Island, off the northern tip of Misamis Oriental, who had been rendered homeless following the violent eruption shortly after midnight of August 31 c-f Mt. Hibok-Hibok at Mambaja0. To cope with both situations, specially the more urgent one in Camiguin, the Cabinet worked out ways and means of stepping up relief work, which had already been started by various Government and private agencies, in all the affected areas. Accordingly, all Government relief agencies like the PACSA, PRATRA, NARIC, the Social Welfare Commission, the Department and the Bureau of Health, and the Philippine National Red Cross, with the cooperation of the Philippine Naval Patrol of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, redoubled their efforts in rushing aid to the victims in the form of rice, canned goods, clothing and medicine.

Throughout the critical period of the Camiguin disaster, from September 1 to September 20, Philippine Naval Patrol and American vessels, supplemented by other privately-owned craft, did a wonderful job of evacuating over 40,000 inhabitants from Camiguin Island. Volunteer relief groups throughout the country also contributed their respective mites toward alleviating the condition of the Camiguin folk. Meanwhile, President Quirino, indicating his deep concern over the welfare of the sufferers on Camiguin, toward the middle of September dispatched a mercy mission to the volcanic area jointly headed by Secretaries Antonio Villarama of Health and Pedro Magsalin of Labor to take in the overall situation there and to submit the necessary recommendations to him upon their return. They were also instructed to inspect all evacuation centers, including those in Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, and in various towns in Misamis Oriental proper. Others in the mercy mission were Vicente Orosa, Undersecretary of Public Works and Communications; Director of Health Felipe Arenas, PRATRA General Manager Ildefonso Coscolluela, Senator Lorenzo Tanada, and Gabriel Belmonte, Malacañan Technical Assistant.

The mission, as well as another relief group headed by Social Welfare Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez, found everything in order in all places they had visited, effected ways and means of coordinating all relief work, and reported upon their return to Manila that the situation was well in hand and that Geophysicist Arturo Al-caraz of the Weather Bureau, who had flown to the volcanic area a day or two after the eruption, had already ordered the return of heads of families to their respective homes. Moreover, priority was given to Camiguin folk in all Public Works projects in Misamis Oriental proper and in all other evacuation centers, while Secretary Villarama recommended what he termed "work relief" in the forms of parcels of land owned by the Government, work animals, farm implements, etc., for all displaced persons, specially tenants who had no farms of their own.

The month of September also witnessed the long-awaited changes in the Cabinet line-up. As revamped the cabinet is now composed of the following: Sotero Baluyut, Secretary of the Interior (new); Sabino Radilla, Secretary of Justice (new); Placido L. Mapa, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources (transferred from Commerce and Industry); Prudencio Langcauon, Secretary of Education (new); Primitiva Lovina, Secretary of Labor (new); Cornelio Balmaceda, Secretary of Commerce and Industry (new); Teodoro Evangelista, Executive Secretary (new); and Social Welfare Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez, Cabinet member without portfolio (new); Miguel Cuaderno, Secretary of Finance; Ricardo Nepomuceno, Secretary of Public Works and Communications; Ruperto Kangleon, Secretary of National Defense; Antonio Villarama, Secretary of Health; Bernabe Africa, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs; and Pio Pedrosa, Commissioner of the Budget. Other important appointments were as follows: Felino Neri as Acting Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs; Esteban A. Abada, Undersecretary of Education; Teodosio Diño, Undersecretary of National Defense; former Secretary of Justice Roman Ozaeta, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; former Secretary of Education Manuel V. Gallego, Ambassador-at-large; former Executive Secretary Emilio Abello, Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington; former Secretary of the Interior Jose C. Zulueta, Acting Chairman, Surplus Property Commission; former Secretary of Labor Pedro Magsalin, Malacañan Technical Adviser and Philippine delegate to the International Labor Organization, United Nations; former-Secretary Jorge B. Vargas and Gil J. Puyat, Chairman and Member, respectively, of the National Urban Planning Commission; Cecilio Putong, Director of Public Schools; Domocho Alonto, Malacañan Technical Assistant; and Major Andres O. Cruz and Major Bartolome C. Cabangbang, Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator, respectively, of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Another important appointment to the Judiciary, in addition to those of Secretary of Justice Sabino

Padilla and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Roman Ozaeta, was that of Judge Conrado Barrios of the Manila Court of First Instance who was named Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals on September 4. Three other Manila judges who had previously been appointed to the Court of Appeals were Fortunato V. Borromeo, Dionisio de Leon and Sotero Rodas.

DURING the month under review, President Quirino took occasion to send at least two congratulatory messages abroad, the first on September 6 to Queen Juliana, of the Netherlands, to whom he conveyed “the most cordial greetings of the Government and people of the Philippines” on the occasion of her ascension to the throne, and the second on September 22 to Herbert C. Evatt, Foreign Minister of Australia, whom he congratulated for having been elected President of the United Nations General Assembly for its session which had just opened in Paris. On September 9 President Quirino also dispatched messages of congratulation to two important Filipino citizens on the occasion of their birthday—former President Sergio Osmeña, now residing in Cebu; and Congressman Quintin Paredes, who was then on his way to Paris as Philippine delegate to the conference of the United Nations General Assembly.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1948, was a red-letter day in the Quirino household as it witnessed the birth of a bouncing eight-pound baby boy to Mrs. Tomas Quirino (nee Conchita Rastrollo) at the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Sta. Mesa. Following receipt of the good news, the President, accompanied by Palace aides, motored to the hospital. The happy grandfather was allowed to take a peep at Elpidio Tomas, the new addition to the Quirino clan, through the glass door of the nursery.

THE people of Rizal Province on September 8 saw a unique exhibition of agricultural products when the first Extension Service Van of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in cooperation with the President’s Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA), began its tour of the province to distribute seeds and give demonstrations on all phases of farming and gardening. On the rolling van were personnel of the Bureau of Plant Industry who gave advice to the people on agricultural problems and distributed informative literature on many aspects of crop raising; and physicians and nurses of the Bureau of Health who gave medical assistance to the sick in the towns and barrios along the way. At this writing, more extension service units, including traveling health clinics, are being readied to service remote towns and barrios in the provinces.

Meanwhile, following the extraordinary session of the Cabinet on September 10, during which the President urged the heads of Departments of the Executive Branch to mobilize their resources and personnel for a full-blast execution of the six-point social amelioration program approved by the Council of State with, if need be, the protection of the Philippine Constabulary and the Philippine Army, the PACSA continued without let-up to accomplish its mission of relieving distress in the eight provinces of Central and Southern Luzon. This in spite of the diversion to Camiguin Island of much of the Government’s effort at relief and amelioration. In a subsequent report of the PACSA which President Quirino took up at the regular Cabinet meeting on September 14, indications of accomplishment were abundant. Incidentally, the President referred to the respective Department Secretaries, who had previously indicated eagerness to extend all possible cooperation to the PACSA, some of the difficulties and complaints of the Action Committee for immediate solution.

Toward the end of September, various reports reaching Malacañan indicated that growing cooperation on the part of the people had resulted in effective work and coordination between the PACSA and the Armed Forces operating in Central Luzon in the matter of taking care of displaced persons and evacuees. Many civilians, including deactivated guerrillas, civilian guards and other volunteers, were reported offering their services in fighting the dissidents. Thus, civilians who previously had been hostile or had been abetting the dissidents, were said to be cooperating in every way, including the giving of information and cooperation, to the PC and PACSA. It was emphasized anew that the basic objective of the armed operation was to clear the fields of obstructions like the dissidents in order that the Administration’s social amelioration program being implemented by the PACSA could be carried out with greater speed and success.

THE Surplus Property Commission came in for its share of Presidential attention during the month. Following the suspension of Arsenio N. Luz as a result of the complaint filed against him and others for negligence, President Quirino on September 15 appointed Secretary of the Interior Jose C. Zulueta as Acting Chairman of the Commission. Earlier, on September 2, President Quirino instructed Mr. Luz, then Chairman of the Surplus Property

Commission, to place under suspension all the officials and employees of the Commission who had been recommended for prosecution by the Horrilleno investigating committee. The President also asked Mr. Luz to "liquidate" the many cases of "nepotism" in the Commission. Subsequently, on September 14, President Quirino ordered the suspension from office of all officials in the Surplus Property Commission, including Mr. Luz, who had just been accused in court in new complaints filed by the City Fiscal of Manila. Incidentally, in connection with nepotism cases unearthed by the Horrilleno committee in the SPC, the President, at the Cabinet meeting on September 3, admonished his Department Secretaries to purge their Departments of nepotism cases, if there were any, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Quezon Executive Order on the subject.

THE abolition of all positions of agents without salary in all Government Departments and Offices was approved by President Quirino and his Cabinet on September 7. The President told the Cabinet that Malacañan had already implemented the policy by dropping every agent without pay. He urged the Department Secretaries to follow suit with respect to their Departments and the Offices under them.

THE Cabinet on September 7 reconsidered its previous ruling that the Commissioner of Customs should use sparingly his discretionary power to allow oceangoing steamers to call at subports to load cargo. This resulted in the reaffirmation of the new policy and a directive from President Quirino for its strict enforcement. Owing, however, to a misinterpretation of the Cabinet order in the circular subsequently issued by the Commissioner of Customs to implement the Cabinet decision, Executive Secretary Emilio Abello reported to the Cabinet on September 14 that his office had been receiving an avalanche of protests against the Customs circular. The circular stated, in effect, that calls at subports of ocean-going ships was completely prohibited by a ruling of the Cabinet President Quirino forthwith called the attention of the Secretary of Finance to the fact that the Cabinet decision had been misinterpreted. The Cabinet decision in question explicitly stated that the Commissioner of Customs should exercise his discretion in the matter *sparingly*, and should respect his previous commitments with shipping companies regarding loadings in subports.

IN accordance with the report and recommendations submitted to President Quirino by General Ralph B. Lovett, head of the U. S. Veterans Administration in the Philippines, for presentation to the U. S. Congress next January, the Chief Executive on September 8 instructed the President's Advisory Board on the implementation of Public Law 865 of the 80th U. S. Congress, otherwise known as the Rogers Act, to work out the draft of a proposed plan for the implementation of the Act. Accordingly, Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon, Chairman of the Advisory Board, called that body to a meeting to draft the proposed plan. The Rogers Act authorizes \$22,500,000 for hospitals and equipment and an operating budget of \$3,285,000 per year for five years.

THE Philippine Government stands to gain ₱1,861,540 plus sixty per cent of gold, silver coins, currencies specie, and other valuable cargo in a contract entered into during the first week of September by the Control Committee of the Government Enterprises Council and the Charles Choy (Philippines) Inc., jointly with Mollers' (Hongkong) Ltd., for the clearing or salvaging of scrap metals, vessels and other craft in Philippine waters. By the terms of the agreement, the contractors will erect in the Philippines at an investment of ₱1,000,000 a rerolling steel mill to reprocess 32,000 tons of scrap, of which 11,000 will be finished as reinforcing steel rods and bars to be sold to the Philippine Government at a fixed price of P232.43 per ton.

THE prediction that "the Philippine Republic will become the world's first and best volume source of ramie fiber and by-products" was made on September 9 by Willis G. Waldo, in an address before the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel. Waldo, Vice-President of the Fiber Conversion Corporation of New York, had been contracted by the National Development Company to study and report on local ramie possibilities. Mr. Waldo's report, covering his researches on ramie culture in the Philippines and the possible areas of growing and processing the plant in this country, was submitted to President Quirino on September 14.

DETERMINED that all of the ₱240,000,000 authorized by the United States Congress for the restoration and improvement of public buildings, roads and bridges, and other public properties in the Philippines destroyed or damaged by the war should be availed of, President Quirino on September 9 summoned the War Damage Commissioners, the United States Public Roads Administrators, officials of the Department and the Bureau of Public Works, and local contractors to a conference and urged them to put their shoulders together and push the program of public works reconstruction to such a speed that not a single peso of that amount would be forfeited. The

Rehabilitation Law authorizing the money provides that the total sum of ₱240,000,000 shall be allocated by the President of the United States “from time to time but not later than the fiscal year 1950.” Realizing later that this would mean allocation of all the funds about a year before the target date or June 30, 1949, barely less than a year away, the Council of State on September 15 deemed it wise for the Philippine Republic to make representations with the Government of the United States for the extension of the deadline. Three days later, or on September 13, the Council of State, upon the suggestion of President Quirino, agreed to break down the ₱25,000,000 earmarked for the National Capitol and spend all but ₱2,000,000 of it for other purposes, including the construction or repair of barrio schools and roads. Apprised of the Council’s decision, the War Damage Commission, through Chairman Fred Waring, agreed that the proposal was wise and practical.

PRESIDENT Quirino in the morning of September 11 set the ball rolling for the nation-wide observance of Arbor Day by planting two red shower trees in the Palace grounds, in the presence of a delegation from the National Federation of Women’s Clubs.

REPRESENTATIVES of the working party of the ECAFE—V. R. Raghavan and R. Subbiah of India, Dr. Hu of China, and two Filipino experts attached to the party, Ramon Abarquez and Felix V. Espino—on September 12 conferred with top Philippine Government authorities on finance, transportation, agriculture, natural resources and economics, with a view to formulating answers to a questionnaire on the industrial and economic needs of the Philippines. The data sought, which were completed by the Philippine group at its subsequent meeting on September 19, will form part of a working basis for the solution of the particular needs and problems of the Far East member nations at the forthcoming meeting of the ECAFE in Australia on November 22, 1948.

THE National Economic Council, at the instance of President Quirino, met on September 17 to study and consider three reports; namely, the report of the special committee of auditors appointed to investigate the transactions of the National Coconut Corporation, NACOCO General Manager Maximo M. Kalaw’s own report, and Willis G. Waldo’s report on the commercial possibilities of ramie culture in the Philippines. The Council approved among others a proposal broached by Dr. Manuel L. Roxas, Malacañan Science and Economic Adviser, regarding the integration and coordination of the industrialization plans of the Government. The conferees were Jose Yulo, Secretaries Mariano Garchitorena, Ricardo Nepomuceno and Placido L. Mapa, Vicente Carmona, Vicente Sabalvaro, Jose Cojuangco, Gil J. Puyat and Amando M. Dalisay, executive secretary

THE Korean Goodwill Mission, headed by Dr. Py-Hun-Ok Chough, on September 8 called on President Quirino to pay their respects and to express their gratitude, on behalf of Dr. Syngman Rhee, president of the Republic of Korea, for the act of the Philippine Republic in extending recognition to the new Korean state.

Other members of the mission were Drs. W. P. Kim, Y. H. Cheung and J. K. Kim. In the evening of the same day, President Quirino honored the Goodwill Mission with a state dinner at Malacañan Palace.

MEETING his revamped Cabinet in its first business meeting on September 24, President Quirino laid down a three-point instruction for its guidance, namely: (1) Full responsibility must be borne by each Department Secretary for the duties and functions of his Office under the law; (2) the different Secretaries should study and formulate such legislative projects as they may want the Congress to take up in its next session; and (3) the Cabinet members should be prepared to discuss comprehensively with the Convention of Provincial Governors in Manila on October 4, 1948, such matters as may concern their Departments.

SET on ending once and for all the perennial rice shortage which afflicts the country, President Quirino on September 29 created a Rice Commission of 11 members and charged it with the duty of making a thorough study of the problems involved and to make recommendations calculated to result in production making up the estimated annual rice shortage of about 15,000,000 cavanes. The members of the Commission as constituted are Vicente Carmona, President of the Philippine National Bank; Jose Cojuangco, President, Rice Growers Association; Judge Guillermo Guevara in representation of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce; Placido L. Mapa, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Primitivo Lovina, Secretary of Labor; Ildefonso Coscolluela, General Manager of the PRATRA; Judge Servillano de la Cruz, President-Chairman of the NARIC; Ricardo Nepomuceno, Secretary of Public Works and Communications; Vicente Sabalvaro, Manager of the National Development Company; Delfin

Buencamino, Chairman of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation; and Cornelio Balmaceda, Secretary of Commerce and Industry.

UNTDER the signature of Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, acting by authority of President Quirino, Malacañan on September 30 issued an instruction to Mayor Manuel de la Fuente of Manila to the effect that amusement places and gaming centers including night clubs and cabarets established after January 1, 1941, if within prohibited zones, must be closed by midnight of September 30, 1948, but that similar establishments duly opened on or before January 1, 1941, in such zones, would be given one year from October 1, 1948, within which to close or to transfer to non-prohibited zones.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: October, 1948

The Official Month in Review

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino took time out from his official chores on Census, Day, October 1, to submit obligingly to a five-minute questioning by a census enumerator. Present during the census "interview" covering the Presidential family were Director Leon Ma. Gonzales, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, and representatives of the press. It will be recalled that the President last July designated Friday, October 1, 1948, as Census Day, "on which date the enumeration of the population and the collection of all pertinent social and economic data about the Philippines shall begin and proceed on consecutive days from daylight to darkness, including Sundays and holidays, until completed."

SHIFTING his attention from politics to economics, President Quirino on October 1 launched the National Food Production Campaign of the Government, and created a Rice Commission "to study the problems of the rice industry and the recurrent rice shortage and make recommendations on a consolidated solution to the rice problem." He opened the food production campaign by addressing the nation the evening of October 1 over a national radio-hookup by remote control from Malacañan Palace, and the following morning, together with Cabinet members and newspapermen, devoted a full half hour to the planting of seasonable seeds and seedlings on designated plots in the Malacañan Park.

BEFORE creating the Rice Commission, the President conferred with the Board of Governors of the Philippine Rice Growers Association during the latter part of September. Then he called a meeting of all government and private entities and parties concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of rice, sounded them out on the needs and problems of the rice industry, and finally created a "rice cabinet" which he instructed to submit within a month's time, comprehensive and definite recommendations for the stabilization of the rice industry in the country.

At its first meeting on October 2, the Rice Commission directed its attention to two pressing problems of the rice industry—the protection of the present rice crop and the effective marketing and distribution of the rice supply—and organized into committees for effective action. The Commission also named six other committees to study and report on various phases of rice and other major food products. Then the various committees buckled down to work, thoroughly discussed plans and recommendations for the stabilization of the local rice industry, and about the middle of the month came up with a plan for a government monopoly of the purchase, and sale of the cereal. The sub-committees threshed out other aspects of the problem and by October 27 were ready to submit their respective recommendations at the plenary session of the Rice Commission in the Council of State Room, Malacañan. The Commission in plenary session approved a 16-point recommendation which Secretary. Placido Mapa, Commission Chairman, submitted to President Quirino in Baguio on October 28.

In its recommendations, the Commission outlined a comprehensive scheme of increasing rice production through a continuously expanding area cultivated for rice, mechanization of rice farming, the use of insecticides and fertilizers, the building of irrigation systems, government financing in the acquisition of proper palay seeds, pest control equipment, experimentation, and other measures. The President was expected to act swiftly on these recommendations as he had previously expressed his intention to speedily effect such measures as may conserve the current rice crop and augment subsequent crops until the Philippines is not only self-supporting in rice but may even have surplus for export.

PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN friendship was renewed and reiterated on the highest level on October 1 when at a simple ceremony in Malacañan, President Quirino received from the hands of Major General Eugene L. Eubank, Commanding General of the U. S. 13th Air Force, the American flag that was flying at Clark Field, Pampanga, and later halfmasted when the late President Manuel Roxas visited the field on April 15, 1948, and was overtaken by heart attack and died. In presenting the flag, which was folded and nestled in his arms, General Eubank, flanked by American Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. Lockett and Lt. Col. Horace E. Todd, made a brief presentation speech to which the President responded with an equally short talk. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS* for texts.)

PROVINCIAL Governors and City Mayors at the behest of the President converged on Manila on October 4 for a five-day convention, their first since President Quirino assumed the highest magistracy of the land. President Quirino formally opened the convention by addressing the delegates in the Malacañan Social Hall. Later in the day the conventionists heard speeches by Senate President Jose Avelino and Speaker Eugenio Perez. While both denounced Communism, discussing it in conjunction with the peace and order campaign of the Government which was the keynote of the President's message, the Senate President took occasion to make an observation on the subject of "unethical journalism." Said Mr. Avelino: "Our democracy at times finds itself at the brink of bankruptcy as a result of the excesses of journalistic sensationalism. We have witnessed here glaring examples of unethical journalism, which threatens to undermine the very democracy that it claims to champion. . . Utilizing fertile imagination, calumny, and the trickery of half-truths, instead of embracing righteousness and truth, such journalism seeks to rule by a type of dictatorship, pretending to represent the quintessence of wisdom and perfection and posing as the new mentor of public opinion and even of the constituted authorities. . ."

Toward the end of the convention, the provincial executives heard Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelist a who explained to them "the role that the Office of the President plays in national administration: its part in coordinating and harmonizing the functions of the various government offices with those of Malacañan so as to achieve an overall efficiency and so that we can bring our Government closer to the people and make it better understood and better loved by them."

A COMMITTEE of provincial governors appointed by the convention called on President Quirino on October 7 to apprise the Chief Executive of the major recommendations approved on the second day of the meet, among these a resolution requesting the Chief Executive to modify the present procedure governing the approval of provincial budgets, so as to eliminate the coursing of such budgets through the Department of Finance; a resolution recommending that provincial governors be given a say in the award of national as well as provincial projects in their respective provinces; and a resolution recommending the delegation of the power of pardon over provincial prisoners to the provincial governors.

THE convention on October 8 spontaneously acted on a matter that was not listed on their agenda: they passed a resolution endorsing President Quirino's reelection. Explaining this unexpected move of the convention, Governor Manuel Cuenco of Cebu and Governor Perfecto Fayon of Ilocos Sur, President and Secretary, respectively, of the Governors' and City Mayors' League, on October 11 issued a joint statement which stated in part as follows:

"It had not been the intention of the Governors and City Mayors in convention at the Manila Hotel to consider a resolution endorsing the candidacy of President Quirino of the Philippines in the forthcoming national elections. The Governors and City Mayors of the Liberal Party who were in said convention were only prompted to consider the matter * * * to answer publications on the matter in some papers.

"The resolution endorsing the candidacy of President Quirino for the 1949 national elections to be submitted in the forthcoming national convention of the Liberal Party was sponsored by Governor Santayana of Quezon Province and seconded by Governor Hidrosollo of Capiz Province and it was unanimously approved by all Governors and City Mayors * * *."

THROUGH the initiative of the President, a Joint Committee of Department Secretaries, Governors and City Mayors "to seek the basis of a greater understanding and cooperation between the National Government and the provincial and city governments," was organized. Members of the Committee on the part of the Cabinet were Secretary Sabino Padilla of Justice, chairman, on the part of the Cabinet; Secretary Sotero Baluyut of the Interior, Secretary Ricardo Nepomuceno of Public Works and Communications, Secretary Prudencio Langcauon of Education, and Secretary Primitive Lovina of Labor, members. Committee members on the part of the provincial executives: Governor Jose B. Lingad of Pampanga, chairman on the part of the governors and mayors; and Governors Jacinto C. Borja of Bohol, Felipe B. Azcuna of Zamboanga, Mariano Peñaflores of Iloilo, and Perfecto Fayon of Ilocos Sur, and Mayors Miguel Raffifñan of Cebu City and Manuel Rojas of Cavite City, members.

The Joint Committee, after informally taking up at a meeting in Malacañan on October 11 the resolutions affecting the relations between the national and the provincial and city governments, met again the following day. This time

they approved in principle five recommendations, namely: (1) The transfer of control over municipal police forces from the municipal mayors to the Philippine Constabulary or the Philippine Army; (2) Asking the Secretary of Finance to act on a provincial budget within 15 days after receipt; (3) Extending to provincial boards similar powers of taxation as those now enjoyed by municipal boards; (4) Fixing a maximum limit of ₱30 for per diems (actual expenses) incurred by governors and mayors coming to Manila on official business; and (5) Requesting the RFC and other loan agencies to grant loans to the provinces and cities for the construction of public buildings, roads and other public works projects. It was indicated that the recommendations would be transmitted to the Department Heads concerned for study, comment and action,

A UNIQUE feature of the convention was that initiated by President Quirino: of having the various Department Heads take turns in meeting and conferring with the delegates. Consequently each of the following Cabinet men had a chance to have a "heart-to-heart" talk with the conventionists: Secretary of the Interior Baluyut, Secretary of Justice Padilla, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido Mapa, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Nepomuceno, Secretary of Education Langcauon, Secretary of Labor Lovina, Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon, Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama, and Secretary of Commerce Cornelio Balmaceda. Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Bernabe Africa and Acting Secretary of Finance Crispin Llamado.

THE international situation was considered by higher levels during the month under review. President Quirino took cognizance of it in his address on October 18 before the student body of the University of the Philippines. The Office of Public Information commented on it in this wise on October 14: "The government is fully cognizant of the grave international situation. It is following up every development through the public press and radio, our diplomatic representatives abroad and other sources of reliable information. The Government is determined that if the international crisis leads to war, the Philippines will not be taken unaware. Measures to be taken in this event are now under study by the corresponding officials."

At a combined meeting of the Council of State and the Cabinet on board the *Apo* on October 15, President Quirino surveyed the worsening international situation and appealed for understanding and unity among official in the government and among the population in general in order that the country may be properly conditioned for a possible emergency.

THE status of the Communist Party in the Philippines also came in for an ailing on October 15 when the decision of the Philippine Supreme Court promulgated on October 26, 1932, declaring Communism in the Philippines illegal, was cited as answer by the Department of Justice to a query posed by the Malacañan Press Association through the Office of Public Information regarding the status of Communism under Philippines laws at the present time.

THE Cabinet refused to let grass grow under its feet during the month. On October 1 it authorized Dr. Pedro T. Orata, technical consultant in the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters, to accept an invitation of the UNESCO to go to Paris for consultation on the subject of fundamental education. In making his recommendation to the Cabinet, Chairman Gabriel Mañalac of the Commission stated that Orata's trip "will be of great benefit both to the Joint Congressional Committee (on Education) with which he is on temporary detail, and to the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters."

On October 8 the Cabinet took another step forward, with the President, in the solution of the threatening rice shortage when it authorized the release of ₱250,000 for the purchase of palay seeds for *palagad*, or second rice crop. The seeds were to be distributed in the sections of the country where there is adequate water supply from the irrigation systems for use during the dry season.

On October 22 the Cabinet reached several important decisions; namely, representation of the Philippine Republic in the next UNESCO conference in Beirut, Lebanon, by Dr. Mañalac, City Superintendent of Schools Venancio Trinidad and Dr. Angel S. Arguelles of the Institute of Science; renewal of the contract for the salvage of coins jettisoned in the vicinity of Corregidor at the beginning of the Pacific war; and giving the Bureau of Public Works and the PACSA top priority over surplus goods that they need.

IT was the sense of the Cabinet on October 22 that the transfer of the University of the Philippines from its Manila campus to its Quezon City site should be carried out in accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 442 in such manner as not to prejudice the interests of the institution. Commonwealth Act No. 442, which was enacted on June 3, 1939, provides for the transfer of “all the colleges, schools, and units of the University of the Philippines located in Manila to a site outside of said city to be chosen by said Board (of Regents) with the approval of the President of the Philippines.” Long before the outbreak of the Pacific war, the Board of Regents, with the approval of the President of the Philippines, had chosen the Diliman site in Quezon City as the new campus for the State University.

THE President’s Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) registered substantial accomplishments during the month. In connection with the Malacañan announcement on October 6 that the Government had taken measures not only to conserve the existing stock of work animals in the country but to increase it considerably through importation, it was indicated that the conservation measure would be carried out by the PACSA. The PACSA was authorized to purchase all the carabaos which their owners, due to displacement from their place of work, may otherwise slaughter for food. After paying a reasonable price for such animals, the PACSA would then place them in convenient pastures and later offer them for resale to farmers who may be in need of work animals, though original owners may repurchase their own animals at cost within a period of three months. Accordingly, the PACSA, with the assistance of various government entities, started to systematically undertake the purchase of carabaos at not to exceed ₱100 per head from fanners in Central Luzon,

IN its progress report to the President on October 16, the PACSA listed its activities pertaining to relief distribution, health, agriculture, education, and labor. Pertinent portions of the summarized report follow:

Relief Distribution.—Rations consisting of rice, mungo, earned goods, dried fish and clothing were distributed during the month of September up to the first week of October to 18,071 families representing 91,665 persons in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Laguna, and Tarlac. Figures for the provinces of Bataan, Pangasinan, Quezon and Rizal were unavailable at the time of the report. Relief work in the field is being carried out by 50 trained social workers with the cooperation of field representatives of the Social Welfare Commission, the PRATRA and the Red Cross.

Health.—With four complete mobile health units operating in the field, the PACSA, with the cooperation of the Philippine War Relief of the United States and the Department of Health, has treated about 15,000 people since September.

In addition, the Bureau of Health has inoculated a great number of people in the numerous evacuation centers.

Agriculture.—In cooperation with the PACSA, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources distributed during the week ending October 15, 1948, some 4,816 packages of vegetable seeds to 989 farmers in Rizal, through its agricultural extension van. The PACSA also helped intensify distribution of palay seeds in connection with the National Food Production Campaign for which ₱250, 000 out of the ₱4,000,000 Pacification Fund of the President had been made available. Through the Bureau of Plant Industry, the PACSA secured from the PRATRA about 1,800 plows for distribution, free of charge, to needy farmers.

Education.—Some 120 adult education classes (up to the month of August alone), with a total enrollment of 4,328, have been opened and are now in operation in Central and Southern Luzon provinces

Labor.—In cooperation with the PACSA, the Department of Labor handled 13 cases during the month of September, successfully settled two and certified five to the Court of Industrial Relations. Total number of laborers involved was 1,771.

MEANWHILE, substantial accomplishments in the implementation of the agricultural aspect of the President’s social amelioration program, including the distribution among nine provinces of ₱161,000 for the purchase of palay seeds, were disclosed in a report released on October 26 by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. These included intensification of truck gardening, distribution of vegetable seeds, fertilizer and farming literature

through rolling vans, promotion of the livestock industry, extension of aid to fishermen, establishment of communal and private irrigation systems in the provinces, and the promotion of land settlements through homestead grants.

AFTER having completed six months as President of the Philippines, President Quirino made his first trip to Baguio by train on October 25 both to rest and to wrestle with a number of important problems of state. If he had expectations of resting comfortably up in the Pines City, however, these were soon dissipated upon his arrival there for he was besieged all week long by visitors from Baguio and the surrounding communities who undoubtedly believed, perhaps with reason, that it was their turn to take up the time of the President.

WHILE still in Baguio on October 27, the Chief Executive released two statements relayed to Malacañan, correcting certain items that had appeared in the local press. In his first statement, he declared that he had been misquoted by some newspapers on the loan that the Philippine government is trying to secure from the World Bank. What he said, according to him, was that Ambassador Elizalde was coming to the Philippines soon and that the prospect of securing the loan was bright but that there so far was no definite commitment.

In his second statement, the President declared that he was not aware of an American plan to abandon American bases from the Philippines although he had been informed that the American Army may disband the Philippine Scouts. However, he expressed the hope that if the Scouts are disbanded, the American Army would find it possible to declare their weapons and equipment as surplus, thus helping the Philippine Government in absorbing the 29,000 officers and men.

BECAUSE of a previous engagement in Manila, President Quirino cut short his vacation in Baguio and came down on October 31 in time to deliver the principal speech the evening of the same day in Malacañan Park on the occasion of the Foundation Day ceremony of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in conjunction with its Silver Jubilee. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the complete texts of this and other speeches of the President during the month.*)

OTHER events of more or less major importance during the month under review included the far-reaching decisions of the National Economic Council, the Advisory Board for the Implementation of the Rogers Act, and the National Urban Planning Commission; the down payment on Clark Field received by the Philippine Government; and the Malacañan directive regarding the appointment of officials and employees of the Surplus Property Commission.

MEETING in the Council of State Room in Malacañan on October 6, the members of the sub-committee on industrial rehabilitation and development of the National Economic Council took up informally the establishment of government warehouses for the storage of copra and other essential products, the question of further exploiting the coconut industry for the purpose of utilizing its various by-products to the fullest extent, and the importance of conducting intense researches with a view to improving the quality of Philippine copra. To this end, the NACOCO will be required to continue its pilot-plant experiments and studies in the industrialization of coconut by-products, such as wallboard, coir fiber, pulp from husk, fuel, and food products. It has also been instructed to install and operate the new oil machinery purchased from the United States.

THE Advisory Board to the President for the Implementation of the Rogers Act at its meeting on October 21 indicated that plans for the establishment of provincial hospitals for veterans will be taken up after the construction of a 1,000-bed veterans hospital in Manila, which will most likely be located in Diliman, Quezon City. The hospital will cost some \$1,850,000 for equipment alone, ₱1,240,820 annually for salaries and wages, and an additional ₱1,750,000 yearly for sundry expenditures. Estimates for construction were still unavailable at this writing.

THE National Urban Planning Commission announced on October 6 its plan to establish a kilometer-long beach for bathing and recreational purposes along Dewey Boulevard Extension—something like the famed Waikiki beach in Honolulu or the Miami beach in Florida. The planning body also announced that the construction of the Sta. Cruz bridge as a new structure at the extension of Rizal Avenue, at an estimated cost of ₱1,000,000, will be completed within two years by the U. S. Public Roads Administration if the Philippine Government would finance the acquisition of the right-of-way, including the construction of the approaches to the bridge.

A CHECK in the amount of ₱918,776.04 in payment for land acquired by the Philippine Government for the expansion of the American Air Base at Clark Field in accordance with the US-PI Base Agreement was handed over to the Philippine-Government on October 13 through Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista by Lt. Col. W. W. Ragland, District Engineer, Manila District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Solicitor General Felix Bautista Angelo, who had been handling the expropriation of parcels whenever necessary, was present during the delivery of the money.

THE Surplus Property Commission was still very much in the limelight during October. To enable it to wind up its investigation and prepare its final report to the President, the life of the Horrilleno Committee investigating the transactions of the SPC was once again extended by the Chief Executive from October 1 to 31, 1948. It had previously been granted two months' extension from August 7, 1948. Its preliminary reports, however, had resulted in complaints filed in court against some SPC officials and employees.

Settling the conflict in the SPC regarding appointments of new officials and employees, Malacañan on October 21 issued a four-point directive for the guidance of both the Control Committee of the Government Enterprises Council and the SPC itself, as follows: (1) salaries earned may be paid; (2) employees occupying positions authorized in the new budget may be considered by the Control Committee; (3) employees laid off previously should not be replaced except those whose positions are continued in the new budget; and (4) security guards dismissed should be replaced by Constabulary men to be requisitioned.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: November, 1948

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE month of November, 1948, will remain memorable to His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, because on this; particular month he observed his 58th birthday anniversary after having completed six months in office as Chief Magistrate of the nation. It will also remain memorable to a substantial portion of the people because it was during this month that he paid another surprise visit to the so-called trouble areas in Central Luzon, and started on a 12-day inspection tour of the Visayas and Mindanao.

The month under review likewise witnessed the creation of the Rice Emergency Board, several far-reaching decisions arrived at by the Cabinet including the disposition of evacuees from China, the arrival here of the World Health Organization (WHO) Mission of the United Nations, the first full-dress conference of the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA), the Presidential approval of the transfer of the University of the Philippines to Diliman, Quezon City, and other events of more or less major import.

DECLARED fit as a fiddle by Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, his chief physician, President Quirino observed his 58th birthday on November 16. Together with his daughter Miss Victoria "Vicky" Quirino, he was "at home" all day long to receive some 6,000 callers at Malacañan Palace. Over 15,000 other well-wishers of the President, including labor elements whom he addressed earlier in the day, milled about the Palace grounds till about noontime. In addition, at least 3,000 messages of felicitation from friends both here and abroad started pouring into the Palace several days before the President's natal day.

On the eve of his birthday, the Chief Executive inaugurated a monthly radio-chat with the nation, over a national radio hook-up. [See *Historical Papers and Documents* for complete texts of this and other speeches of the President.] The President's address was followed by a radio program over all stations presented by the President's Birthday Anniversary Committee composed of Senate President Jose Avelino as Chairman and Speaker Eugenio Perez, Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran and Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut as members.

Other features of the birthday fete were thanksgiving masses and services in all churches and chapels throughout the country, appropriate programs in all public and private schools, and a mammoth program on the Malacañan grounds in which some 5,000 indigent children and families received gift packages containing cloth, fruits and candles. By special request of the President the National Committee on the celebration of the birthday, minimized the expensive social amenities of past years and devoted the bulk of its funds, contributed by friends and admirers of the Chief Executive, to hospital and charity groups.

At the conclusion of his 101-hour trip over Central Luzon on November 11, covering the Provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, President Quirino declared that both "Operation Harvest" and "Operation Evacuees" had been successful and that Central Luzon was peaceful and would have a bumper rice crop. Said the President to newspapermen:

"I made this trip to observe how the evacuees are being taken care of and to view the rice crop which is about to be harvested. I am satisfied that the evacuees are being cared for properly by the PACSA and that the harvest is being protected. It is now obvious that the 50 days of the amnesty gave a much-needed opportunity to the farmers to plant palay everywhere. As a result all Central Luzon is now ripening with grain."

To set an example to the members of his Cabinet whom he had previously advised to make occasional trips to the provinces to enable them to feel the pulse of the nation, thus further bringing the Government closer to the people, President Quirino, accompanied by high officials and friends, left on the night of November 22 on board the s. s. *Argus* for a 12-day tour of the Visayas and Mindanao. His itinerary included the following places: Dumaguete City, Cebu, Cagayan, Oriental Misamis (via Camiguin); Lanao, Cagayan de Misamis, Ozamiz City, Pulpandan and Bacolod City, Negros Occidental; Iloilo and Antique.

Among those who accompanied the President on the trip were Miss Victoria “Vicky” Quirino, Secretaries Sotero Baluyut (Interior), Placido L. Mapa (Agriculture and Natural Resources), Ricardo Nepomuceno (Public Works and Communications), and Primitivo Lovina (Labor); Senators Prospero Sanidad, Lorenzo Tafiada and Tomas Cabili; Brig. Gen. Mariano N. Castaneda, Chief of the Constabulary; Commissioner Francisco Delgado, a number of congressmen, and representatives of the Manila press.

Highlights of the Presidential trip up to and including November 30: Aboard, the *Argus*, he announced (1) his plan to seek a comprehensive social security legislation in the forthcoming session of the Congress, and (2) the regrouping of all government corporations and placing them under a responsible head with the rank of secretary Commented on the reported statement attributed to Maj. Gen. Albert M. Jones, chief of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, as follows: “The Philippine Army will stay. The national defense program will continue unchanged and will even be developed.” . . .

He told a conference of Negros Oriental officials at Dumaguete that his visit to the provinces was inspired by his desire to bring the political subdivisions of the country closer together “so that we can rise with the strength of a compact and solid nation.” . . . Declared before a convocation at Silliman University that the Government can best rely on the intellectual classes to protect the masses against “foreign influences that destroy the pristine virtues of our nation.” Also warned them against the evils of Communism. . . .

At Cebu’s Plaza Independencia, he pleaded for “more economics, less politics; mere achieving, less preaching; more execution, less denunciation.” . . . Warned 10,000 students and faculty members of Cebu against the “danger of instilling in the minds of our youth doctrines that destroy our way of life.” Declared that “the youth should be trained at the very beginning on the necessity of clean thinking and clean living to enable them to become dependable leaders in the future.” . . .

At Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, he promised to justify the title of Moro datu conferred upon him years ago “by converting Mindanao into a vast empire of wealth.” . . . Before a crowd of 10,000 at Camp Keithley, Lanao, he accepted the challenge to run for re-election after Senators Cabili and Peridatun, Governor Marohombsar and Mayor Bato Ali had reportedly pledged him their whole-hearted support and that of Lanao in the next election . . .

Told a huge gathering at Ozamiz City that “cities must not depend too much for aid on the national government; it is the national government that should lean on cities for support, not cities on the national government.” . . .

Stressed at the University Club, Bacolod City, the need not only of improvement of the sugar industry but also of the share of the laboring class. Also denounced “persons who pose as champions of the poor and magnify their plight to serve their own personal ends.” . . . Appealed before the convention of Negros mayors for “unity of purpose, solidarity in aspirations, and earnestness in doing our allotted tasks.” . . .

Declared before 20,000 people at Sunburst Park, Iloilo, that he did not come to that city as a candidate but as the Chief Executive of the country surveying the state of the nation. But he added, “I am no hypocrite and if my party endorses me, I will be available—even expendable.” The statement was preceded by endorsements and pledges of support from Senator Fernando Lopez, Congressmen Borra, Lutero, Demaisip and Nonato, and Governor Peñaflorida.

PRESIDENT Quirino on November 10 constituted the Rice Emergency Board by appointing as members Secretary Placido L. Mapa of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda of Commerce and Industry, Secretary Primitivo Lovina of Labor, Jose Cojuangco and Romualdo Vijandre. He told the Rice Commission that the REB would act as an advisory body in assisting him on the proper measures to be taken in the event of a rice emergency.

After satisfactorily threshing out points of disagreement with rice growers, millers and dealers from Central Luzon, the President on November 19 signed the Executive Order setting up a Rice Emergency Board to regulate the production and distribution of palay and rice. Declaring a state of rice emergency in the Philippines, the Order

provides that only the state and those individuals or firms which it expressly licenses may buy and distribute palay or rice at prices fixed by the Government.

The Order fixes the price of rice on the basis, of ₱14 per cavan of palay of 44 kilos, second-class macan, delivered Manila, The prices of other varieties are to be computed on this basis.

On November 22, the President issued an Administrative Order to implement the provisions of the Executive Order. Subsequently, on November 30, Secretary Mapa as chairman of the REB authorized the NARIC to issue temporary and revocable permits to qualify individuals and firms to purchase or sell rice or palay, acting as agents of the Government.

THE Cabinet on November 2 approved Philippine representation in (1) Commissions to try top-level war criminals in Japan and (2) the fourth session of the FAO conference in Washington D.C., beginning November 15, 1948. As members of the FAO delegation, the Cabinet named Congressman Domingo Paguirigan, chairman, and Director Felix D. Maramba (Bureau of Plant Industry), Dr. M. V. Sumulong (Bureau of Animal Industry), and Dr. Deogracias Villadolid (Bureau of Fisheries). The Cabinet also named Dr. Angel Arguelles, director of the Institute of Science, as the third Filipino delegate to the UNESCO conference in Beirut, Lebanon.

On November 5, the Cabinet granted permission to Dr. Gabriel Manalac, chairman of the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters, to make study trips to France and the United States before returning to Manila from the UNESCO confab in Lebanon.

The President on November 9. instructed each Cabinet Secretary to submit to him before Christmas the balance sheet of his Department with respect to accomplishments and projects still unfinished. The Chief Executive expected to use the reports as the basis of his State-of-the-Nation address before the Congress next January. In this connection, he urged the Cabinet' members to travel to the provinces to bring the Government closer to the people.

On November 12, the Cabinet approved in principle the proposal to organize more provincial branches of the Philippine National Bank

In response to an inquiry from Consul General Mariano Ezpeleta in Shanghai as to the policy he should adopt in regard to individuals fleeing China and seeking refuge in the Philippines, the Cabinet on November 19 decided that only friendly nationals among the refugees from China's revolution whose nations have concluded treaties of amity with the Philippine Republic will be admitted here under specific conditions. Under this decision, stateless persons would not be admitted. Meanwhile, upon recommendation of Consul General Ezpeleta, the Department of Foreign Affairs asked the various Philippine shipping companies in Manila with ships plying between the Philippines and China to instruct their offices in Shanghai to give preference to Filipino evacuees in booking accommodations on board their ships.

THE members of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) Mission to the Philippines called on President Quirino on November 1. The group was composed of Dr. Howard C. Naffziger, professor of medicine in the University of California, head of the Mission; Dr. John Murray Steele, professor of medicine at the New York University; Dr. Gumersindo Sayago, TB specialist, University of Cordova, Argentina; Dr. Jose Amador Guevara, VD specialist; and Miss Elizabeth Mellius, secretary of the Mission. The Mission came here to exchange views and information with local health officials and medical men on the latest developments in medical researches. The Mission members visited various hospitals and conducted lectures on the different branches of medical science.

SOME 84 delegates from nine provincial chapters in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Rizal, Laguna, Quezon and San Pablo City, attended the first conference of the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) at the Social Welfare Commission building in Manila on November 11. The confab was presided by Hilarion S. Silayan, PACSA Executive Secretary, in the absence of PACSA Chairman Asuncion A. Perez who was out of the city at the time. Close to a million displaced persons, indigents and needy farmers in Central and Southern Luzon had been served by the PACSA for the period from July to the first week of November, 1948, according to figures disclosed by PACSA field men during the meet..

In addition, 15,500 families in Bulacan and 4,500 families in San Pablo City, reprinting some 150,000 displaced persons, had been afforded relief and employment. If figures had been taken of needy farmers among whom small loans, palay and vegetable seeds and fertilizer has been distributed, the overall figure of needy persons served would exceed the million-mark.

In a previous report, Commissioner Perez revealed that up to October 31, 1948, a total of ₱374,590.29 worth of relief supplies and other aids had been distributed in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Quezon, Laguna, Tarlac, Paagasinan, Bataan. Rizal and Sulu. This amount, excluding purchases or requisitions made in the field and other aids such as palay and vegetable seeds and medicine, represented an increase of ₱88,012.05 in only one week's operation. The total number of people served during the same period reached 290,064, excluding those served through the PRATRA

Meanwhile, on November 10 Mrs. Perez together with Faustina Aguilar, manager of the Rural Progress Administration, motored to Dinalupihan, Bataan, where they succeeded in threshing out knotty problems in connection with the Subdivision and sale of the much-controverted Dinalupihan Estate. They also took up the details of the proposed fishery loans to needy fishermen.

THE Civil Service Board of Appeals was reconstituted by President Quirino on November 2 with the appointment of Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla as chairman and of Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista as member. The third member of the Board is Dr. Rufino Luna.

UPON the request of accredited Malacañan newspapermen, President Quirino on November 4 issued the following statement: "The re-election of President Harry S. Truman and the new control by the Democratic Party of both Houses of the Congress means to us the normal continuation of friendly and beneficent relations with the United States in abnormal times. It goes without saying the Washington administration will be sympathetic to ours as heretofore. President Truman is a tried friend, solicitous of the welfare of the people whose independence he himself proclaimed. We have every reason to expect that, in time of stress and distress, America will continue to be sympathetic to the Filipino people."

THE President on November 4 accepted the resignation of Col. Jesus Villamor as General Manager of the National Airports Corporation "effective at your pleasure" and "on condition that should your experience, training and patriotic service be again needed by your government and people, you should make them available at any time." Simultaneously, the President designated Secretary Ricardo Nepomuceno of Public Works and Communications as Acting General Manager in Addition to his duties as chairman of the Board of the corporation.

ON Armistice Day, November 11, President Quirino took special cognizance of the importance of the day in a world where "uneasy clouds hang over most of Europe," in a message read by Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon at the Armistice Day celebration in the evening at the Army and Navy Club. The observance in Manila was keyed by American Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. Lockett who called for military preparedness and continued demonstration to the world that "the democratic way of life is preferable to all other ways of life."

At noon of the same day, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista delivered the principal address at the Armistice Day celebration of the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel.

AFTER making an inspection trip to Diliman, Quezon City, on November 12, President Quirino indicated his belief that the University of the Philippines could be transferred to its new site at the beginning of the coming year, according to plans. Expressing enthusiasm over what he found in Diliman, the President said sufficient accommodations are already there to enable the UP's transfer early next year. He was accompanied on the inspection trip by Secretaries Langcauon, Mapa, Nepomuceno and Padilla, Commissioner Perez, Director of Public Works Femanclo, UP President Gonzalez and Quezon City Mayor Bernardo.

THAT the outbreak of another world war, in the face of the conditions they had observed in Europe, is a remote possibility, was the considered opinion of Senators Emiliano Tria Tirona and Prospero Sanidad who on November 13 reported to President Quirino their impressions of conditions obtaining abroad, particularly in connection with

the international situation. The same view was expressed by Admiral William H. Standley, Manila visitor who on the same date was entertained at cocktails by the President and Miss Quirino. The Admiral declared that there would be no war between Russia and America in view of the re-election of President Truman.

PRESIDENT Quirino, as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, on November 18 received from James Mel. Henderson, Philippine Alien Property Administrator of the United States, 17 parcels of real estate aggregating 98,912 square meters, and 1,170 shares of ₱100 par value capital stock of the Sea Food Corporation. The transfer of the property, located in Bulacan, Quezon City, Rizal, Davao, Cebu City and Zamboanga City, was effected by the signing 11 transfer agreements under the provisions of Republic Act No. 8 and the United States statute known as the "Philippine Property Act of 1946." The Philippine Government paid the total sum of ₱1.00 for the whole property.

In another ceremony on the same day, President Quirino and American Charge d'Affaires Lockett exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Consular Convention between the Philippines and the United States, signed in Manila on March 14, 1947.

REDEFINING the position of the Government Enterprises Council in the governmental scheme, President Quirino on November 20 stated that it is purely an advisory body to study, supervise or revise the policies of the Government with respect to the operation of Government corporations, and that it should not endeavor to control the acts of such bodies unnecessarily. The President at the time was presiding over the meeting of the Labor-Management Advisory Board which was attended by 24 chairmen of the Board of Directors and Managing Heads of Government-owned or controlled corporations. Vice-Chairman Cornelio Balmaceda was also present.

The meeting was called primarily to take up the recommendations of the Labor-Management Board regarding the petition of Manila Railroad Co. workers. The recommendations were approved practically in toto by the GEC, including the proposed standardization of the salaries of MRR employees. It was indicated that the proposed standardization would serve to effectuate a plan previously approved by the MRR Board of Directors fixing the minimum salary of employees.

At the continuation of its meeting on November 22 in the Council of State room in Malacañan, the GEC discussed a 12-point agenda and approved, among others, the creation of a committee to study ways and means of establishing a Central Hospital for officials, employees and laborers of Government-owned or controlled corporations. The Council also considered the various problems involving retirement and security benefits for employees and laborers, plans for expansion, the need for additional operating funds, and similar matters confronting Government corporations.

ROVING Ambassador Manuel Gallego on November 26 flew to Australia to attend the ECAFE conference in Lapstone, New South Wales, as head of the Philippine delegation. Other members of the delegation were Consul General Manuel Alzate in Sydney, Prof V. E. L. Belmonte, and Blaz Gomez of the NDC. Secretary of the group was Capt. Antonio Mañgila of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: December, 1948

The Official Month in Review

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino and his party arrived in Manila on December 4, following a 12-day fact-finding tour of the Visayas and Mindanao. During the entire trip the President gave top priority to official matters, making it a point to meet public officials and the public in general in all the places he visited which included Dumaguete City, Cebu, Cagayan (Misamis Oriental), Dansalan and Iligan (Lanao), Ozamiz City, Pulupandan, Binalbagan and Bacolod City (Negros Occidental), Iloilo and Capiz. He inquired about the people's needs and complaints, if any, and what they expected of the Government. In his addresses, he advocated peace and order, civic spirit and industry, warned against the dangers of communism, and pleaded for the support of his administration and its policies.

IN Capiz President Quirino recalled the services to the people of the late President Manuel Roxas who hailed from that province, and promised he would carry out the projects intended for Capiz which the late President had hesitated to push through for obvious reasons. In his address in Iloilo, the President declared that he did not go there as a candidate but as the Chief Executive of the country surveying the state of the nation. But all along from Dumaguete on, there was such a universal and spontaneous offer of support from public officials and the people themselves to the administration and his re-election, that he was constrained to state in that speech, "I am no hypocrite and if my party endorses me, I will be available—even expendable." (See *Official Gazette*, November 1948, for the highlights of the Presidential visit to other parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.)

TWO other provincial trips were made by the President this month. On December 11 he left for Cavite to officiate at the inauguration of its provincial capitol. On December 17 he entrained for Lucena, Quezon, to inaugurate the Quezon Memorial Hospital and to speak at the unveiling of the Quezon Monument in that province.

EXTEMPORANEOUSLY addressing the Philippine College of Surgeons at the Philippine General Hospital on December 9, the President emphasized the need of dovetailing the medical profession with the duties and responsibilities of the state with a view to devising a scheme for the dispensation of "socialized medicine" to the masses. He pointed out that the Government alone cannot cope with the problem of providing sufficient medical aid, and appealed to the civic spirit of the practitioners for cooperation in "improving and restoring the health of the people, in curing and rehabilitating the sick and in uplifting the general condition of the masses."

AT a state dinner in Malacañan in honor of Ambassador Joaquin Elizalde and of two Philippine missions to the United States, President Quirino expressed gratification that by their work the nations of the world have come to realize the economic and financial stability of the Philippines, and that the American Government has once more shown its concern over the Philippines, specially the Filipino veterans. The two missions are the Veterans group made up of Congressmen Ramon Magsaysay and Atilano Cinco and the Cuaderno mission made up of Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno, Undersecretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Jose Camus and National Power Corporation Manager Filemon Rodriguez. The Magsaysay-Cineo mission worked for the passage of the Rogers Bill which authorizes the appropriation of about ₱50,000,000 for Filipino veterans hospitalization. The Cuaderno mission negotiated the hydroelectric power loans of the Philippine Government from the World Bank.

THE exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the Philippines and Italy took place in the Council of State room in Malacañan on December 10. During the ceremony, President Quirino in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Italian Charge d'Affaires Vittorio Strigari signed for their respective Governments. The treaty was signed in Rome, Italy, on July 9 1947, by President Quirino, then Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Count Carlo Sforza, Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was ratified by the Philippine Senate on May 4, 1948.

SPEAKING as principal guest during the open forum in the Manila Hotel of the O Philippine Alpha Chapter of Pan Xenia, President Quirino declared that the fraternity can be a vital force in stabilizing and strengthening the economic structure of the nation, and urged its members to study local economic problems thoroughly with a view to finding a methodical approach to their solution. Stating a basic policy respecting the economic development of

the country, the President emphasized that the Philippines “is not going to be an isolated, exclusivist country” but will continue to welcome foreign businessmen and capitalists to invest here.

PRESIDENT Quirino on December 11 accepted the application for retirement of Maj. Gen. Rafael Jalandoni, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Subsequently, he effected important changes in top-level assignments in both the Army and Constabulary. Brig. Gen. Mariano N. Castañeda, PC Chief, was appointed Army Chief of Staff with the rank of Major General, while Col. Alberto Ramos, Senior Aide to the President, was named Chief of Constabulary with the rank of Brigadier General.

THE President on December 21 set Christmas as the deadline for the year-end reports of Department Secretaries on the activities of their respective Departments. It was understood that he would make these reports the basis of his state-of-the-nation message to the Congress of the Philippines at the opening of its regular-session in January, 1949.

AT the Cabinet meeting on December 28, President Quirino signed the much awaited Executive Order (No. 193) regulating importation of luxury and nonessential articles for the purpose of conserving the country’s dollar credit. The Executive Order is an implementation of Republic Act No. 330 passed by the Congress of the Philippines in its last session creating the Import Control Board and authorizing the promulgation of regulations affecting luxury and non-essential goods.

THE opening of the Central Bank for business on January 2, 1949, was announced by President Quirino to the Council of State at its regular meeting in Malacañan on December 15. The President also clarified before the “elder statesmen” the loan position of the Philippines with respect to negotiations with the World Bank, with the assistance of Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno and Ambassador Joaquin Elizalde.

AT a special meeting of the Cabinet on December 23, the President announced the creation of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank and set the taking of oath by its members and also by the recently-created Social Security Study Commission for Friday morning, December 24, in the Council of State room. At the same time, the Chief Executive named Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno Acting Governor of the Bank, pending his permanent separation from the Cabinet post.

REFERENCE to the corresponding Cabinet members of various matters gathered by the President during his tour of the South and the reports of Finance Secretary Cuaderno and Ambassador Elizalde on the loan negotiations with the World Bank took up practically all the time of the Cabinet on December 7.

IN view of the petition of the Philippine Dental Association to restore the practical tests in the Board examinations for the professional practice of dentistry, President Quirino himself brought up the question of practical dental tests before the Cabinet on December 10. Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama commented on the matter upon invitation of the President. Later the President indicated he would study the voluminous documents on the matter submitted to him by Secretary Villarama before resuming consideration of the Dental Association’s petition.

AS their Christmas greeting to the President, the members of the Cabinet on December 24 adopted a resolution pledging anew their cooperation and wishing him “continued health and prosperity and unbounded measure of success in the discharge of his responsibilities as President of the Philippines.”

IN accordance with a promise President Quirino made in the late President Roxas home province on his southern tour, the Cabinet on December 31 voted a substantial sum (₱154,000) as a special aid to Capiz. Incidentally, December 31, 1948 was the eve of the late President’s birthday anniversary. During the same meeting, approval was given to the request of the International Relief Organization (IRO) for the accommodation in the Philippines of refugees of mixed nationalities, mainly from China, numbering up to 8,000, on specific conditions that the IRO itself proposed. The IRO had suggested that the evacuees be concentrated in Guiuan, Samar, and will be removed to their final destinations within six months.

ONLY about 5,000 evacuees in Central Luzon out of the original 500,000 were under the care of the President’s Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) as of December 20. Between 5,000 and 10,000 others were

under PACSA care in Southern Luzon. This was revealed by Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez, PACSA Chairman, on the occasion of the oath-taking on that date of Generals Castañeda and Ramos. Commissioner Perez stated that, as indicated by the return of many people back to their farms, the condition of peace and order was fast returning to normal. She also revealed that the center of PACSA activities had shifted from Central Luzon to Laguna.

THE preparatory technical conference on labor inspection in Asian countries was held in Kandy, Ceylon, from November 15 to 20, 1948, attended by 40 delegates from 18 countries and territories in Asia. The Philippines was represented by Pedro Magsalin, Malacañan Technical Adviser and permanent Philippine delegate to the ILO. The agenda of the conference was drawn up in the following terms: Labor inspection with special reference to (1) recruitment and training of labor inspectors, and employment of women in labor inspection service; (2) the role of the inspectorate in the enforcement of measures intended to ameliorate working and living conditions; and (3) standardization of the collection and publication of information obtained by labor inspectors in various countries.

THE immediate evacuation *en masse* of Filipino nationals in Shanghai was decided by the Government on December 2 and an LST boat of the Philippine Naval Patrol left the following day for that purpose. The decision was reached after the Department of Foreign Affairs, through Undersecretary Felino Neri, had consulted with the President, through Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, on the basis of reports received from Consul Mariano Ezpeleta in Shanghai. In view, however, of the growing tenseness of the situation in Northern China, many Filipino evacuees were expected to take advantage of the previous offer of the Everett Steamship Co. to place two of its vessels at the disposal of the evacuees. Meanwhile, plans for the care of the Filipino evacuees here had been perfected by the PACSA, the PRATRA, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Social Welfare Commission.

THE PACSA on December 20 reported that only 15 out of the original 73 Filipino refugees from China who arrived aboard the *M. S. Leneverret* several days before, were still housed at Welfareville. The rest had been claimed by relatives. The PACSA was in charge of the housing, maintenance and-relocation of the refugees.

PRESIDENT Quirino on December 4 instructed Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, Chief of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations, to vote in favor of the admission of Israel as member, if the Security Council of the UN should so recommend.

COORDINATION of the assistance to Philippine education by the UNESCO and by the Fulbright educational missions to avoid overlapping had been decided by the Philippine Government, Malacañan indicated on December 8. A UNESCO mission was expected to start for the Philippines from Paris on December 11, to remain here for from three to six months. On the other hand, one of the projects under the Fulbright Act establishing an educational reciprocity between the United States and the Philippines, was to send here an educational mission of top-flight American educators. As this mission will cover secondary and vocational education and educational financing, the Philippine Government had suggested that the UNESCO Mission cover only the remaining aspects of education; namely, college education, adult education and technical education.

AMBASSADOR Romulo on December 11 reported by cable to President Quirino on the Philippine participation in the Paris session of the UN General Assembly. The Philippine envoy reported that (1) a resolution was pending before the plenary session of the Assembly setting up a Palestine Conciliation Commission of three members replacing the mediator; (2) a resolution on Korea creating a permanent Commission, with Philippine membership assured, was already approved in the first committee; and (3) a resolution making Spanish one of the working languages of the United Nations, which was approved in the plenary session of the Assembly, was co-sponsored by the Philippines, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

CHRISTMAS loans to about 30,000 Government employees entitled to backpay in Manila and the provinces, amounting to between ₱5,000,000 and; ₱6,000,000, will be distributed before Christmas Day, Malacañan understood that the Christmas loans will be chargeable against the backpay certificates of the Government employees concerned.

LED by Senator Vicente Madrigal, Governor Jose U. del Gallego and Congressman Juan Q. Miranda, a group of provincial officials and town mayors of Camarines Sur called on President Quirino on December 20 to present him a

souvenir pennant bearing the following legend: "Resolution approved in joint session of the Provincial Board and Municipal Mayors of Camarines Sur on the 1st day of December, 1948, proclaiming President Elpidio Quirino as their official candidate for President on the occasion of the inauguration of the City of Naga on December 15, 1948."

AMID simple ceremonies, the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Philippine-Spanish Treaty on Civil Rights and Consular Prerogatives, and the exchange of notes in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Treaty of Friendship between the two countries, took place in the Council of State room in Malacañan the morning of December 22. President Elpidio Quirino, in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Spanish Minister Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas signed for their respective Governments. Following the ceremony, both the President and the Spanish Minister drank toasts to "long and enduring friendship" and expressed mutual hopes that the Treaties will further reinforce the bonds of goodwill and commercial collaboration between their two countries.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Undersecretary, shortly before Christmas sent a four-point instruction to Ambassador Romulo for his guidance on the Indonesian question. The Philippine envoy was instructed, among others, "to call at once the attention of the Security Council to the Indonesian question with a view to issuing a cease-fire order without the least possible delay," and "to reiterate to the Council the position that the Philippine Government has consistently followed in favor of Indonesian independence in accordance with the terms of the Linggadjati Agreement."

ROVING Ambassador Manuel V. Gallego on December 28 recommended to President Quirino that the Philippine Government apply for priority in flood control assistance which the United Nations, through its Bureau of Flood Control, will extend to the principal countries suffering from uncontrolled river floods. Ambassador Gallego represented the Philippines in the fourth session of the ECAFE in Lapstone, New South Wales, Australia, from November 29 to December 12. Among the resolutions approved during the ECAFE meet, which the Philippine envoy submitted to the President, were one admitting Indonesia as an associate member and another designating Singapore as the seat of the fifth plenary session of the ECAFE.

MEETING the members of the newly-created Social Security Study Commission in session for the first time, President Quirino on December 31 instructed the various subcommittees of that body to prepare the drafts of their respective resolutions for inclusion in his state-of-the-nation message to the Congress. The President also took part in the preliminary discussions relative to the proposals of the Sub-Committee on Unemployment Insurance headed by Dr. Jorge C. Bocobo. He expressly instructed the Commission to dovetail its recommendations and proposals with existing basic policies of the Government with regard to labor-management relationships and the tenancy laws.

DR. Gumersindo Sayago, Argentine TB specialist and member of the WHO Medical Mission to the Philippines, called on President Quirino on December 29 to render a brief report on his findings and observations here. Doctor Sayago declared that the increased application of prophylactic methods, principally BCG vaccination, will help greatly in reducing the high TB mortality in the Philippines. He revealed the decision of President Quirino to set up a BCG laboratory in Alabang, Rizal, with sufficient funds to enable it to conduct further experiments in effective TB control. The eminent TB specialist also made the observation that TB mortality in the Philippines is especially high among new-born children up to three years old.

RIZAL Day on December 30 this year was observed without the usual fanfare, parades and beauty contests that characterized its annual observance before the war. There was some sort of celebration, of course, but it was in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion and more fitting to the memory of the national hero. Instead of sponsoring a parade on Rizal Day, the moving spirits behind the NEPA (National Economic Protectionism Association) movement decided to hold a Revival Banquet at the Manila Hotel in the evening, with President Quirino as principal speaker. Motif of the 1948 Rizal Day celebration was the revival of the NEPA the principles of which were in consonance with Rizal's teachings.

A commemorative program at the Rizal Monument on the Luneta the morning of December 30, with Speaker Eugenio Perez as the principal speaker, was the main feature of the Manila observance of the day. This was followed by a pilgrimage to Fort Santiago where Rizal spent his last days before he was shot at Bagumbayan. Another feature

of the observance in Manila was! the exhibition of Rizaliana at the Bureau of Public Libraries under the direction of Director Eulogio B. Rodriguez.

In the afternoon of the same day, President Quirino attended the Rizal Day program at the Holy Ghost College. During the program, the President was installed as honorary member of the *Orden de Caballeros de Rizal*.

The actual observance of Rizal Day started *ok* December 29 with the pilgrimage to the birthplace of Rizal at Calamba, Laguna, where addresses were delivered by Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut and former Solicitor General Manuel Lim. In the evening, Secretary Baluyut also delivered the principal speech at a Rizal Day radio program over Station KZFM.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: January, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino on January 1, birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel Roxas, led the entire nation in paying homage to the memory of the departed leader. Over a national radio hookup from his study in Malacañan Palace the evening of the same day, the President delivered a brief, solemn speech extolling the personal attributes and dynamic leadership of his predecessor whose "place in the roster of noble men and women produced by our country is secure." He struck a resonant note when he declared that "it would not be improbable he (Roxas) would prefer that we express our loyalty to, and affection for, his memory in terms of positive and concrete action to fulfill the ideals behind the program of service which was the breath of his life." (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the complete text of this and other speeches and pronouncements of the President in January.*)

THE importance of the Central Bank of the Philippines to the economic and financial structure of the country was aptly expressed by President Quirino when in a speech during the inauguration of the Bank on January 3, he referred to it as "the Charter of our economic sovereignty." Its significance to the economic life of the nation, he said, "may well be compared to the Constitution that governs its political life." The inaugural ceremonies were highlighted by the swearing in of former Finance Secretary Miguel Cuaderno as Governor of the Bank.

ACCOMPANIED by a number of high government officials and newspapermen, President Quirino on January 6 left aboard the steamer *Argus* for a six-day tour of the Bicol Peninsula, with Bulan, Sorsogon, as the first port of call. From Bulan the Chief Executive travelled by automobile and train, stopping at San Roque and Sorsogon, Sorsogon; Legaspi, Albay; Naga and Tigaon, Camarines Sur; and Sipocot and Daet, Camarines Norte.

At a press conference aboard the Presidential yacht *Apo* on his way back to Manila, the President declared that his trip to the Bicol provinces had been fruitful and that he would use all the information he had gathered in furthering the Government's rehabilitation and reconstruction program, including the development of the abaca and coconut industries and the construction of more roads and irrigation systems. In all the towns he visited, the President conferred with local officials and addressed crowds of citizens. He observed local conditions closely, taking note of the needs of the various communities and the demands and expectations of the people and their officials. In turn, he stressed in his addresses unity and co-operation, industry and productivity. Everywhere his party stopped, there were big crowds of town and barrio people, in some places reaching estimated figures of from 15,000 to 20,000.

Back in Manila, the President indicated that the Government was prepared to spend several million pesos for the rehabilitation of the abaca and tobacco industries, and other millions for irrigation systems. To a delegation of the Philippine Tobacco Planters Association that called on him in Malacañan on January 15, he also gave assurance that the Government "is determined to give new life to the tobacco industry" through "material help and the implementation of a policy of protection."

THE Council of State, meeting on January 15, set greater production and a more widespread social amelioration program as the 1949 goals of the Quirino administration, just as the establishment of peace and order and the strengthening of the people's faith in the Government were its objectives in 1948. The production program, it was indicated, will have as goal self-sufficiency in food, including rice, and the increase in the producing capacity of the export industries, such as copra, abaca, sugar, lumber and others. On the other hand, the creation of a Department of Social Security was broached in order to carry out more effectively the plan to broaden the basis of the social amelioration program now being undertaken jointly by the PACSA and the Social Welfare Commission.

SOME modifications in the application of the import control regulations were approved on January 5 by the Cabinet as a result of requests from the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce and from Consul General Jose P. Melencio, both in New York. In conformity with the Chamber's request, goods intended for export to the Philippines which were already on the docks or on lighters at the time the regulations went into effect, will be exempted from import control. Goods in transit from factory to port, however, do not come under this exemption.

THE Philippine Republic is setting the pace for the entire world in responding to a great humanitarian need thus deserving universal acclaim, according to the International Refugee Organization which on January 5 wired its gratitude to President Quirino for the Philippine Government's offer to give temporary sanctuary to upwards of 8,000 non-Chinese evacuees from China. The Cabinet had previously approved the request of the IRO for the accommodation of displaced persons in the former naval base at Guiuan, Samar. The understanding was that the refugees would be transshipped within six months to their final destination.

IMPORTANT appointments to the Cabinet and other branches of the Government were made by President Quirino on January 5. These included the appointments of former Budget Commissioner Pio Pedrosa as Secretary of Finance and of former Deputy Auditor General Pio Joven as Budget Commissioner. On the same date, the President signed the appointment of Felino Neri as permanent Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, and of Pablo, Lorenzo and Eduardo Cojuangco as new members of the Board of Governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. (*See APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT elsewhere in this issue.*)

THE Philippine Naval Patrol, AFP, has been authorized to expand its personnel by 80 officers and 700 enlisted men for the purpose of manning operating and servicing additional ships received from the United States Government, Malacañan revealed on January 6. For this purpose, the PNP has been allocated an additional sum of ₱1,681,220.

THE first batch of 1949 pardons extended by the President to deserving prisoners, consisting of 16 conditional and 14 absolute pardons, was released by Malacañan the evening of January 9. The favorable action of the President on these pardons had been preceded by recommendations of the Pardon Board, of which the Secretary of Justice is Chairman.

A NATION-WIDE survey of problems and conditions affecting child health and welfare in the Philippines may be recommended to President Quirino by a group of Government officials and private citizens who had already taken preliminary steps towards this objective, it was indicated on January 10 in connection with the UNICEF Mission which had just arrived in Manila. The plan envisages the calling of a National Child Health and Welfare Conference and the creation of a National Child Health and Welfare Council.

UNDER the thirty per cent transfer program of Japanese reparations, the Philippines has so far received articles worth ₱24,087,946 and assigned additional materials which are still in Japan worth ₱1,470,191, according to the January report Submitted to the President by the Reparations Advisory Committee. Articles received in Manila consist of machine tools worth ₱22,781,934; laboratory testing and measuring equipment worth ₱306,012; and residual materials worth approximately ₱1,000,000. The items already assigned but not yet received in Manila are integrated fuel facilities (pilot plants) worth ₱454,567, electrical facilities worth ₱715,624, and equipment for the iron and steel industry worth ₱300,000.

COMMENTING on a Washington dispatch in the January 11 papers to the effect that President Truman has included \$185,000,000 for the Philippines in the budget he had sent to Congress, President Quirino expressed his gratitude and said he intended to take up Philippine interests further with the U. S. President. The statement was made in Sipocot, Camarines Norte, where the President stopped over in the course of his Bicol tour. The day before, he cabled his congratulations to Dean Acheson, newly-appointed U. S. Secretary of State.

CONGRATULATIONS were also transmitted on January 13 to James Webb, new U. S. Undersecretary of State, by Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri. Correcting press reports the day before, Undersecretary Neri declared that the Department of Foreign Affairs was not planning any unilateral action for the imposition of economic sanctions against the Netherlands but that it was merely making preliminary studies in connection with its participation in the projected Asian conference in New Delhi.

IN the field of reconstruction in war-devastated countries, UNESCO has spent over \$150,000,000, with the Philippines getting a good share both in fellowship grants as well as in terms of material assistance to local educational, scientific and cultural institutions devastated by war. This was revealed on January 13 by Solomon V. Arnaldo, UNESCO's New York Acting Director.

SHOCKED by the burning to death of at least seven persons in a fire in Paco on January 5, President Quirino, at the regular meeting of the Cabinet on January 14, created a committee headed by himself to inspect the *barong-barong* and other makeshift constructions and slums in Manila for the purpose of getting the firetrap dwellings vacated and the persons affected properly housed. It was indicated that the committee would also undertake the survey of U. S. military sites in the city which, according to agreement, will be vacated and turned over to the Philippine Government on March 15, 1949. Named to the committee were Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Ricardo Nepomuceno, Secretary of Labor Primitive Lovina and Manila Mayor Manuel de la Fuente.

INFORMED that people engaged in harvesting their rice in Central Luzon were being levied a certain percentage for protection, presumably against Huks, the President and the Cabinet on January 14 strongly reiterated a previous Presidential order to the effect that no official or employee of the Government should exact any contribution from landowners or tenants in exchange for the protection extended to them while harvesting their rice crop. The President declared that the Government has sufficient funds with which to pay for the services of its own men engaged in maintaining peace and order.

A MBASSADOR Carlos P. Romulo, Chief of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Delegate-Designate to the Southeast Asia Conference scheduled to start on January 20, was honored by President Quirino at a state dinner in Malacañan on January 14. The occasion coincided with the Ambassador's 51st birthday. Said Mr. Romulo in his after-dinner speech: "One of the tasks of the SEA Conference will be to help peoples of Asia achieve their aspirations through means that will strengthen rather than weaken the forces of democracy. Peace and stability can be achieved in Asia only in proportion as its peoples are given the freedom to which they are entitled and the right to equal partnership with others in the building of a better world."

PRESSTATED Ambassador Romulo on his arrival here on January 13 enroute to New Delhi, seat of the conference: "The President, as the architect of our foreign policy, has faithfully interpreted the sentiments of the Filipino people in committing our country to the principle of Asian solidarity in support of the right of self-determination and freedom of dependent peoples, particularly as that principle has been dramatically illustrated in the instant case of the Indonesian question. The further details of our policy relative to that principle, both in its general and particular aspects, will form the subject of my conference with the President before proceeding to New Delhi."

THE postwar project to build a war memorial in the Philippines came a step nearer realization when the Cabinet on January 14 granted permission to the Freedoms Shrine Foundation of the United States, through Dr. Harry Gregory Schnackel, to raise funds and construct here a 200-foot replica of the sculptural group of the Four Basic Freedoms designed by Dr. Russell of Carnsgie Hall, New York. The memorial will be a token of the friendship of the American people toward the Filipino people.

IN his third Radio Chat to the nation on January 15, President Quirino appealed for "sober thinking" and urged the people to "ponder in all conscience what political changes to make in this crucial year of our political history." He urged his listeners to profit from past experiences and to "acquire new courage and new vision to face the future." After bewailing the fact that while he was in the Bicol regions bringing the Government closer to the people some people here were busy "raising anew political partisan differences and sowing confusion in an already confused metropolitan population," the President declared: "The country would be greatly benefitted by a more searching analysis of conditions—of things and men, their fates and fortunes—in the darkest as well as in the brightest hour of our history." The President also reported on his impressions during his trip to Bicolandia.

"PRESIDENT Quirino announced to his Cabinet on January 18 the expected arrival in Manila on February 7 of a five-man mission of the United States Veterans Administration to look into the needs and welfare of Filipino veterans and confer with local officials. The President's announcement was based on a letter sent to him by Ger. Ralph B. Lovett, Manager of the local U. S. Veterans Administration.

THE Cabinet approved on January 18 Philippine participation in the International Wheat Conference scheduled for January 26 in Washington, D. C. Composing the Philippine delegation were the following Philippine Embassy

personnel in Washington: Minister Emilio Abello, chief; Commercial Counselor Urbano Zafra, alternate; and Second Secretary Justiniano Quirino, adviser.

AS a further step in the carrying out of his policy of bringing the Government nearer to the people, the President on January 18 instructed the Department Secretaries to instruct their undersecretaries, bureau directors, and other officials to pay special attention to the matters submitted to them by provincial and municipal officials coming to Manila on official missions. He pointed out that these officials are often delayed in returning to their posts because of the lack of attention given to them by national government officials.

IN line with his policy to give visiting local officials proper attention, the President forthwith reinforced the personnel in charge of reception and liaison work in the President's Office with Assistant Executive Secretary Nicanor Roxas more or less in charge. He will be assisted by Assistant Executive Secretary Jose P. de Leon, Private Secretary Juan Brillantes and Special Assistant Eulogio Garganera. Secretary Roxas will take charge of contacting the various other offices of the Government for the needs of the people who bring their problems to Malacañan, after such needs are endorsed to him either by De Leon, Brillantes or Garganera.

SUBSTANTIAL progress in the work of bringing the Government closer to the people is claimed by the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) in its year-end report submitted to the President by its Chairman, Commissioner of Social Welfare Asuncion A. Perez. The report covers the activities of the PACSA from the time of its organization last August up to December, 1948, and claims the following accomplishments: (1) Extension of relief assistance in the form of food, clothing, health and sanitation aids and facilities to about 700,000 needy people in 13 provinces and one chartered city; (2) Organization of PACSA chapters and units in capitals, towns and barrios in eight provinces and one chartered city; (3) Promotion of wider interest among the people in civic consciousness and community responsibility; (4) Improvement through coordinated and directed action of the efficiency and effectiveness of the various departments and agencies of the Government connected with it; and (5) Gathering of valuable data and information about social and economic problems in rural regions which are the target of the President's social amelioration program.

In his cablegram of congratulation on the occasion of Harry S. Truman's inauguration on January 20 as President of the United States, President Quirino declared: "You carry the mandate of the age of the common man, and the success of your administration in advancing his welfare will undoubtedly be signal victories at large for democracy, freedom and peace in our troubled world?" The President also reiterated "the gratitude, friendship and loyalty of my people to the noble people of America."

MALACAÑAN on January 20 announced the appointment by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of Dr. Pedro T. Orata, Executive Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Consultants of the Joint Congressional Committee on Education, as member of the UNESCO Consultative Educational Mission to Siam. The UNESCO Mission will be in Siam from February 7 to March 5, during which period they will advise the Siamese Government on problems of fundamental education and removal of illiteracy.

MAURICE Stack, an expert on social security programs and Chief of the Social Insurance Section of the International Labor Organization, told the Social Security Study Commission on January 19 that there are three contingencies upon which a social security program is generally based, as follows: (1) inability to work due to sickness; (2) inability to obtain work with a satisfactory living wage; and (3) inability to cope with growing family responsibilities. Mr. Stack was introduced to the Commission members by Dr. Raghunath Rao, Assistant Director General of the ILO, who was here at the time on a special mission for that body.

DE. RUFINO LUNA, Presidential Adviser on Local Government, on January 21 was appointed by President Quirino as Philippine representative to the United Nations Permanent Commission on Korea, whose main job will be to supervise the withdrawal of occupation forces from the new Republic. Dr. Luna was instructed to proceed immediately to the Korean capital since the first meeting of the Commission was scheduled to start on January 26. Dr. Luna, it will be recalled, was alternate delegate to the Temporary Commission on Korea which had supervised the popular elections preceding the establishment of the Republic, his chief being Senate President Protempore Melecio Arranz.

BALDOMEEO T. Olivera, press attache at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco until a few months ago, became Malacañan Press Secretary effective January 26. He replaced Vicente Albano Pacis (on detail to the Press Office since the President assumed office on April 17, 1948), who was reverted to the Department of Foreign Affairs pending an assignment abroad. A graduate of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, Illinois, Mr. Olivera joined the *United Press* after returning to Manila and later became editor of the *Star Reporter*. Also joining the Malacañan staff on the same date was Philip Buencamino III, former Manila newspaperman and radio news commentator and until recently Second Secretary in the Philippine Legation in Rome, who assumed the position of Malacañan Assistant in charge of foreign affairs matters.

THE Philippine budget is balanced, the Government has further strengthened the people's confidence in its sincerity and integrity, the Huk movement has degenerated into sheer banditry, and the country is well geared to meet the menace of Communism. These were among the major accomplishments of the present administration which President Quirino mentioned in his state-of-the-nation message to the Congress of the Philippines the afternoon of January 24 in the old Legislative Building. Among the "tasks ahead," the President stressed the need for production and social amelioration and urged Congress to approve adequate social security legislation. Indicating that the administration will continue its "unequivocal policy" of eliminating evils to prove "the primacy of public interest over party, group or personal claims," the President said: "This is the age of the common man . . . We want to follow up the program of social amelioration with greater intensity and give the masses a Straight Deal." Outlining the basic foreign policy, he pledged adherence to the United Nations, expressing confidence in its capacity to "adjust international conflicts for the permanent peace of the world." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the full text of the President's Message on the State of the Nation.)

IN keeping with his policy of bringing the Government closer to the people, President Quirino on January 25 enplaned for the Ilocos on a three-day fact-finding trip, taking in his stride three Ilocos provinces; namely, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Abra. During the trip the President observed actual conditions, conferred with provincial and town officials on their needs and problems, and appealed for unity and co-operation with his administration. In his speeches he emphasized that he had invited Cabinet members, Ministers and other high officials so they could see how the Ilocano nation lives; reiterated his plea to cast aside petty political bickerings; and stressed the need for balanced government with all the elements and regions joining hands in nation-building.

UPON his arrival in Manila on January 29, the President told an estimated crowd of 5,000 who gave him a rousing welcome at the airport that his trips to the provinces have enabled him to form a complete picture of the real situation in the Philippines. He added that his administration would go full steam ahead with its recovery program, giving priority to projects he considered urgent on the basis of his factual findings from his nationwide trips.

THE New Delhi Conference gave birth to a "third force" which can offset the gems of Communism and reestablish the equilibrium in the Asiatic countries, according to Ambassador Romulo who returned to Manila on January 25 from the SEA confab which he attended as Philippine delegate. He added that the conference also served "to prevent another ideology from capturing the faith of our fellow Orientals by default," pointing out that Russia had essayed to assume the leadership in Far Eastern affairs by pretending to champion the cause of former subject peoples who are trying to assert their right to self-determination.

JOINING the Presidential party at Vigan on January 26, General Romulo, at a dinner given by President Quirino in honor of his guests, paid high tribute to the President's far-sighted foreign policy which, he said, has made the Philippines "strong within and respected abroad." He gave the President full credit for the success of the Philippine foreign policy, saying: "Whatever stand we took and whatever defense we made was in strict compliance with the foreign policy formulated by him as Secretary of Foreign Affairs."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: February, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

A SIMPLE ceremony in the Council of State room in Malacañan Palace the morning of February 1 marked the formal transfer of 58 houses from the U. S. Army to the Republic of the Philippines which were in turn transferred to the City of Manila for the use of Boys Town. Major General Jonathan Anderson of PHILCOM in behalf of the U. S. Army delivered the properties to Chairman Jose C. Zulueta who accepted them for the Surplus Property Commission. President Elpidio Quirino forthwith transferred these properties through the SPC to the City of Manila represented by Mayor Manuel de la Fuente. The houses and fixed installations involved in the turnover, located in Marikina, Rizal, have a total procurement value of ₱692,597.

REFUTING press reports to the contrary, Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank declared on February 1 that the bringing to Manila of a group of Chicago engineers by Manager Filemon Rodriguez of the National Power Corporation is not setting back the stage of the loan negotiations with the World Bank but is in fact advancing it. Governor Cuaderno had previously conducted negotiations with the World Bank and had obtained commitments for ₱30,000,000, equivalent to the dollar needs for two of the four hydroelectric projects of the Government. He said the American engineers "are coming here precisely to prepare the specifications for the bids soon to open for the supply of machinery and equipment needed in the Ambuklaw project in Northern Luzon . . . The money borrowed will not be brought to the Philippines but will be used to pay whatever machines and equipment will be bought abroad for the project."

PRESIDENT Quirino on February 2 assured a delegation of abaca planters from Mindanao that the Government is determined to extend "the greatest encouragement, not only in words but in financial aid" to the abaca industry to enable it to maintain its supremacy in the world market and thus prevent purchaser nations from resorting to substitutes. The delegation was composed of the president, the board of directors and several members of the Mindanao Abaca Planters Association.

"DR. Maurice Stack, head of the Social Security Section of the International Labor Organization (ILO), and Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez and Dr. Jorge C. Bocobo, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Social Security Study Commission, submitted their respective reports to President Quirino on February 3. The reports included proposed measures for legislative enactment, having to do chiefly with social security and health insurance.

ASSURANCES of goodwill between the Philippines and the United States were exchanged at luncheon on February 3 between President Quirino and Admiral DeWitt C. Ramsey. In a brief remark of welcome, the President told the Admiral that he was happy to receive the Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Fleet in the Pacific "because the United States Navy stands for peace and security." Responding, Admiral Ramsey recalled that this was his third visit to the Philippines and that he found the country more fascinating with each visit.

HOLDERS of Philippine diplomatic passports, except in certain specific cases, are not entitled to courtesies of the port here. This was the explanation made by Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri in connection with reports that some holders of diplomatic passports had claimed exemption to customs inspection. He said only diplomatic and consular officials are automatically entitled to exemption from customs inspection, but the Department of Foreign Affairs may request the Commissioner of Customs to grant similar courtesies to bearers of diplomatic passports who, although not diplomatic or consular officers, are considered deserving of such courtesies because of their high public positions.

ADDRESSING a delegation of provincial and city treasurers that called on him on February 4, President Quirino underscored their role as "economic advisers" in their respective areas and exhorted them to encourage the people to establish new industries as a check to unemployment. Stressing the need of strengthening the people's confidence in the Government, the President admonished the provincial and city finance officers who had been holding consultative sessions in Manila beginning February 1, to continue exercising vigilance during election time since the counting of votes would be placed in their hands.

AT the Cabinet meeting on February 4, President Quirino instructed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda to assume control of the National Coconut Corporation. Secretary Balmaceda was taking over the NACOCO in his capacity as Chairman of the Control Committee of the Government Enterprises Council.

THE period for the registration and deposit of Philippine National Bank circulating notes illegally issued, and those which were certified to by the Secretary of Finance as having been illegally issued, has been further extended until April 1, 1949 by President Quirino through Executive Order No. 202. The Order, effective as of February 1, 1949, was signed by the President on February 4.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs announced on February 4 that it had addressed a communication to the Argentine Government, through the Philippine Legation in London, approving the proposal to send Don Eliodoro Antenor Vieyra as Minister to the Philippines. This move of the Philippine Government had previously been transmitted to the Cabinet by President Quirino.

UPON receipt of advice from Governor Datu Udtug Matalam of Cotabato regarding the big fire in that province that stalled early in the morning of February 5, President Quirino the same morning mobilized the relief forces of the Government, including the Philippine National Red Cross, the PRATRA, the Social Welfare Commission, and the PACSA. To reinforce the relief work among the fire victims, six Philippine Army transport planes were dispatched the following day (Feb. 6) to the scene of the disaster. The mercy airlift took off from Manila with three doctors and six nurses from the Bureau of Health and three social workers each from the Social Welfare Commission and the PRATRA, to join the staff of the Red Cross personnel already operating in the fire area. All the planes were loaded with clothing, foodstuffs, medicine and other materials which for the first time were assembled with precision under the coordinated Government machinery prescribed in President Quirino's Administrative Order No. 71, issued last October, integrating the activities of the different relief organizations. Later reports from Government social workers in Cotabato indicated that the fire, causing damage to public and private property estimated at some ₱8,000,000, was under control and that relief work among the homeless was progressing smoothly.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, speaking as guest of honor at a convocation at the Philippine Normal School on February 5, warned his audience of the "very active threat" of a third world war "hanging over our heads." Expressing fear that in the next world conflict science would be "far more effective in liquidating humanity on shorter notice," Secretary Evangelista said it is incumbent upon the present generation to make "a positive contribution to prevent the tragedy, otherwise there will be no next generation to worry or get worried about." Touching on the "One World" theme of the convocation, the Secretary declared: "The peace that we need to live creatively and abundantly is not only a peace among the Governments of the world. It must be a people's peace—a peace in which every private individual must share the responsibility to uphold and preserve law and order—if it is to be lasting and if it is to prevent the catastrophe from which the human race may never recover."

THE National Economic Council on February 5 approved the Government's ₱115,000,000 financing program for income-producing development projects. The NEC also decided on (1) the recommendation favoring the grant of financial assistance to abaca planters; (2) the promotion by the Government of the Philippine merchant marine as part of the Philippine economic development program; and (3) rejection of the proposal by the Netherlands Government for reduced tariff on Dutch goods by abolishing the "home-market-value clause" in the Philippine Tariff Act.

AS a result of the President's recent trip to the Bicol area, following which the Chief Executive released the sum of ₱200,000 for the Sipocot-Lupi-Del Gallego road project, construction of the highway was formally opened on February 6. The road project, which will soon link Camarines Sur with Quezon Province and consequently with the rest of Luzon, has been named "Quirino Highway" by the Provincial Board of Camarines Sur "in full appreciation and recognition of their debt of gratitude to the President."

GENERAL Carlos P. Romulo on February 7 discussed with the President the proposed revised budget for his office in New York which has been reorganized from a Delegation to a Mission. It was indicated that the new budget does not entail any material change in the outlay earmarked for the office but will merely be adjusted in accordance with

standard diplomatic rankings. The General also exchanged views with the President on various phases of the international situation.

THE United States Veterans Administration Mission to the Philippines was received by President Quirino in Malacañan the evening of February 7. They were accompanied by U. S. Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. Lockett and General Ralph B. Lovett, Chief of the U. S. Veterans Administration in Manila. During the visit, the President welcomed the Mission to the Philippines and offered the assistance of the Government in placing at the disposal of the Mission all the data that they would need in their one-month survey. The Mission, specifically making inquiries on the projected hospitals for Filipino veterans here, was composed of the following: J. Glenn Corbitt, Director, Foreign Relations Service; Eon F. Peppers, Executive Assistant for Vocational Rehabilitation and Education; Vernon S. Auld, Assistant Director, Finance Management Service; John J. Rockefeller, Director, Construction Service; and William J. Blake, Field Supervisor of Veterans' Claims Service.

ON the occasion of the 13th Constitution Day of the Philippines on February 8, President Quirino declared: "I call upon all my countrymen to rededicate ourselves to the ideals embodied in our Constitution and inculcate in the minds of every citizen a renewed sense of dignity and national consciousness. All over the world today, there are gathering threats to constitutional liberties. And at home, there are indications of dangerous leanings towards disregard of our constitutional precepts. Let these tendencies make inroads into our system and the very foundation of our way of life will be badly shaken."

PRESIDENT Quirino on February 8 submitted to the Congress the budget of the National Government for the 1949-1950 fiscal year calling for net expenditures amounting to ₱282,698,735. The new budget estimates the total income at ₱304,000,000. The total surplus estimated at the end of the 1950 fiscal year amounts to ₱24,031,216.06 but an estimated ₱20,000,000 is allocated for expenditures from already authorized continuing operations. On the basis of these figures, the estimated surplus at the end of the fiscal year 1950 will be ₱4,031,216.06, compared with the expected surplus at the end of the 1949 fiscal year of ₱2,729,951.06. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the complete text of the President's Budget Message to the Congress.*)

BATTING for Filipino war veterans, President Quirino on February 9 urged the members of the visiting U. S. Veterans Administration group to consider not only the establishment of hospitals for disabled Filipino war veterans but also the possibility of extending recognition to unrecognized but deserving guerrilla organizations in the Philippines. The occasion was the luncheon he gave in honor of the Mission in Malacañan. Responding for the visitors, U. S. Charge d'Affaires Lockett assured the President and the local veterans officials present that the missionaries did not come to "investigate" but to "cooperate" with local veterans leaders so that they could gather a true picture of the veterans needs here and recommend proper steps for extending adequate assistance to them.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 9 that the President had authorized the advance of ₱2,000,000 to the Philippine Veterans Board to assure the continuance of the payment of pensions to approximately 50,000 disabled veterans, widows and orphans and indigent parents of veterans. The measure, which was approved in principle by the Cabinet the day before, averted a disruption in pension payments.

DURING the Cabinet meeting on February 11, President Quirino instructed Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon to take added precautions to avert mishaps in the Philippine Air Force. The President ordered the creation of a technical board to inspect all PAF planes thoroughly and certify to the airworthiness of all aircraft before they are permitted to fly. The Presidential move was prompted by the Imus crash several days before in which Capt. Teofilo Benitez of the PAF was killed.

QUERIED by the *United Press* on February 12 as to what he thought of the trial and conviction of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary, the President reacted sharply and said: "It is preposterous. It is one in the series of repressions and persecutions which have taken place behind the iron curtain."

IN a move to hasten the reconstruction program of the Government, Secretary of Finance Pedrosa on February 12 instructed all provincial and city treasurers to advance funds for public projects aided by the War Damage Commission upon receipt of the copy of the award from the WDC. The Secretary issued the circular after it was

learned that in many instances the delay in the implementation of the projects was caused by the refusal of the treasurers concerned to advance the needed funds.

PRESIDENT Quirino, at the special commencement exercises of the University of the Philippines in connection with its fortieth anniversary on February 12, enunciated a new Philippine ideology which he described as “a way of life inspired by democratic ideas and guided by tested social advantages.” The President’s new ideology is a combination of democratic goals and socialistic ideals. Its objective, he said, “is a happy citizen of this country that is equally a happy and helpful citizen of the world. He lives free and secure not in national isolation but in international dependence. He loyally supports his government and makes his individual voice, jointly with others, count for understanding and cooperation in the family of nations. His country and people have a way of life that fulfills their material and moral aspirations and contributes variety to the color and texture of a world pattern of cooperative living.” (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the complete text of the President’s V. P. address.*)

ON February 14, eve of the month-long fund drive of the Philippine National Red Cross for 1949, President Quirino addressed the nation over the radio appealing for nationwide support of “Humanity’s Guardian.” He said: “It is our duty—the duty of every man, woman and child in our country, regardless of race, nationality or creed—to support the Philippine National Red Cross so that it may adequately perform the great mission entrusted to it. Only as it commands the determined backing of the people can it be expected to discharge its responsibility to the community and the nation— Help the Red Cross—help it all you can—for in so doing you help yourselves and you help humanity.”

THE President’s industrialization program took another big forward step on February 14 when the Insular Sugar Refining Corporation, a subsidiary of the National Development Company, formally resumed operation. The formal opening of the plant, which has a daily capacity of 5,000 bags of refined sugar of 100 pounds each, took place in the presence of high Government officials, representatives of various Manila firms, the PRATRA and the press, at Mandaluyong, Rizal.

IN a speech before the opening session of the Second Plenary Congress of the National Federation of Sugar Planters at the Manila Hotel on February 15, President Quirino assured the sugar men that the Government will extend liberal crop loans on the basis of 60 per cent of the actual price of sugar. At the same time the Chief Executive exhorted the sugar planters to resolve their conflict with the central owners over the assignment of quotas through amicable means and to join them in forming one solid organization. The President was introduced by PRATRA General Manager Ildefonso Coscolluela, president of the federation, who described him as a true disciple of progress in whom we have a great friend and from whom we can expect a square deal.”

ELABORATING on the new ideology which he enunciated at his U.P. speech on February 12, President Quirino, in his fourth monthly radio chat on February 15, appealed to the nation “to give it serious study, to adhere to it, and to act upon it with intelligence, vigor and zeal.” The new ideology, he said, is more than a mere theory; it is a program “to preserve the interest of the common man—including the highest, the richest, the most powerful and the best endowed.” According to him, the new ideology aims at total economic mobilization and is based “on the material development of all our sources of wealth We must establish in our minds that there is no magic to expect in the matter of realizing our new way of life. There is no royal road to national stability and self-respect. We have to work together.”

PEESIDENT Quirino on February 15 joined the Catholic group in the Philippines in condemning the trial and conviction of Prince Primate Mindszenty of Hungary, at a demonstration on the Malacañan grounds. In an extemporaneous speech before the demonstrators, the President expressed in no uncertain terms his condemnation of the ruthless procedure adopted in the case against the Catholic prelate and served notice that as President of the Philippines “I would condemn any attempt by any branch of this Government or any group among us to curtail religious freedom and to set the law only in an effort to enthrone in this country a new god—what they call the Red God.” Sounding the warning that the trial in Hungary may be repeated here “with more serious tragedy to ourselves and to our posterity,” he urged his hearers to join efforts in eradicating the Red influence and in “driving home into every heart and soul of the populace the great danger of that way of thought, of practice, of dogma, which are

derogatory to bur individual life as a nation and to our individual rights as private, freedom-loving citizens of this country.”

ACTING swiftly on the reported activity of Taal Volcano which caused 2,000 people living near the volcano to evacuate voluntarily, President Quirino on February 16 immediately ordered the Philippine National Red Cross to mobilize its forces for any possible emergency in the area. The same day, an emergency conference was held in the office of Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista attended by representatives from the Red Cross and the Weather Bureau. While relief work among the evacuees was reported under control, Secretary Evangeiista on February 17 relayed to Governor Feliciano Leviste of Batangas the official report submitted to Malacañan by Arturo Alcaraz, geophysicist of the Weather Bureau, that the volcano is not in imminent danger of erupting “at least for some time to come.” Measures were subsequently taken for the return of the evacuees to’ their homes.

THE President on February 16 was the recipient of two gifts from Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain—statuettes of Don Quijote and Sancho Panza—and a motion picture reel taken of the Generalissimo himself addressing a message of friendship and goodwill to the Filipino people. The gifts were presented to the Chief Executive by Sr. Blanco Soler, of the Spanish Goodwill Mission, who was accompanied by Spanish Minister Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas and Spanish Consul General Manuel Acal.

DR. Y. T. Pyun, head of, the Korean Goodwill Mission that arrived in Manila on February 10, wa.s received by President Quirino in Malacañan on February 16. Dr. Pyun, it was understood, exchanged views with the President on “general topics” having to do with Philippine-Korean affairs. Queried later by the press on the proposal to set up a Korean legation here and a Philippine legation in Korea, the President said this was “under advisement.”

PRESIDENT Quirino the night of February 16 disclosed that he had instructed Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla and Judge Felipe Natividad to pursue the immigration quota investigation with dispatch and without favor regardless of the personalities involved. Commenting on rumors that the investigators were soft-peddalling the investigation allegedly because of certain close relations of the President being involved, the Chief Executive told the two probers: “If any of my brothers or any relative of mine is implicated in this scandal, put him in jail!”

THE Chief Executive on February 16, shortly after Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo had bidden him goodbye prior to taking off for the States, indicated that he was very much pleased with the manner in which the Ambassador handled the Philippine representation at the New Delhi conference. The President commended Romulo for the high level at which the Ambassador had been discharging his duties at the international conferences, particularly at the recent General Assembly session in Paris.

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Consultative Educational Mission to the Philippines, headed by Dr. Floyd Reeves, dean of the College of Education, University of Chicago, on February 17 took up with President Quirino their four-month survey of the educational system in this country. Other members of the Mission were Dr. Paul Hanna (U.S.A.), Dr. A. C. Lewis (Canada), and Dr. Viriatco Camacho (Costa Rica). The missionaries were requested by the Philippine Government to assist local officials in a survey of the educational system in the Philippines particularly as it concerns elementary and adult education, teacher training, administration and finance.

INTERVIEWED by newspapermen during the reception in Malacañan the evening A of February 17 in honor of the delegates to the Second Annual Congress of the Sugar Planters Association of the Philippines, President Quirino urged concerted national efforts toward economic mobilization and pleaded to national leaders, the press, and the people to forego politics “during this delicate hour.” He requested the members of the press to “help us avoid stirring the hornet’s nest,” apparently referring to the reported bitter struggle for power in Congress. Emphasizing that he was not interested in discussing politics at least until November, the President stated that he felt he has a mission to accomplish and that he aims to pursue the implementation of his economic program irrespective of political consequences. He made it plain that he was prepared to submit his program of economic development to the people and that he *was* determined to rise or fall on the basis of that program of action.

THE Cabinet on February 18 approved (1) the elimination of middlemen in the purchase by the Government of critical construction materials; (2) the policy of allowing, on a reciprocal basis, foreign governments to purchase real estate here for the use of diplomatic and consular offices; (3) the World Health Organization proposal to grant leaves of absence to technical officials of the Government serving with the WHO without losing their rights and privileges acquired by previous service at home; and (4) Philippine participation in the 27th Annual Fair in Milan, Italy, scheduled to be held from April 12 to 29, 1949.

A PPROACHED by newspapermen after he had received a delegation of student veterans and representatives of the Anti-Juvenile Delinquency Youth Organization the afternoon of February 19, President Quirino declared that he was determined to pursue his program of clean and honest government "regardless of political consequences." The President added that the moves in the Senate (the reported conflict between the Quirino and Avelino factions) offered an opportunity to clarify once and for all the long-standing charges from many quarters of corruption and dishonesty in the Government. "Let the truth come out," he emphasized. "I am determined to settle this question once and for all, even at the cost of party unity or at the cost of my own candidacy."

ACCEDING to a request for comment by a reporter on the recommendation of Maj. Gen. Albert M. Jones, Chief, JUSMAG, for the speedy development of the Philippine Air Force, President Quirino on February 20 indicated that in view of the present world situation, he has made it a policy to strengthen the national defense machinery "within the limits that can be borne by our national finances." The Air Force, he added, deserves priority because of its importance in modern warfare.

WITH President Quirino himself presiding, the National Economic Council on February 21 took the following far-reaching steps calculated to put the Administration's economic mobilization program into motion: (1) approval of the NDC project to purchase three ocean-going vessels from SCAP; (2) the revitalization of the NACOCO; and (3) the designation of a full-time coordinator under the President, in charge of integrating the development program of the Government corporations. The President emphasized before the Council that all possible measures must be taken to implement the development program as early as possible. To this end, he enjoined the Council immediately to frame up a program of allocation of the ₱200,000,000 development fund to various industries.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 21 that the Senate of the Philippines had formally delivered the official transcript of Senate Resolution No. 70 notifying the Chief Executive that "the Hon. Mariano Jesus Cuenco of Cebu has been elected Acting President of the Senate." The announcement added that the official transcript had been received by the Executive Secretary and had been made part of the official record.

THE Cabinet on February 22 approved the proposal to send a delegation to the forthcoming session of the International Rice Commission scheduled to open in Bangkok, Siam, on March 7, 1949. The Philippine delegation will be headed by Undersecretary Jose Camus of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, with Arturo V. Tanco, manager of the NARIC, as alternate delegate. The IRC falls within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and was created to promote closer coordination of the efforts of rice producing and consuming countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, in the production, distribution and price of rice.

THE Chief Executive on February 24 led the nation in paying tribute to five pioneering foreign nationals who have spent a lifetime of service among the under-privileged people of the Philippines. In a simple ceremony in Malacañan held under the auspices of the Women's International League, the President pinned on each of the recipients a gold medal and awarded them with a certificate of merit. Impromptu awards of ₱1,000 each from private donors were also delivered to the recipients who were as follows: Miss Mary E. Polley, pioneer American educator; Dr. H. Otley Beyer, eminent scientist, scholar and educator; Irving Hart, happy symbol of true Americanism and loyal and devoted friend of forgotten men and neglected women and children; Mother Damien, devoted French Sister of Mercy; and Father Leon Quintelier, pioneer Belgian missionary worker among the inhabitants of Mountain Province.

ASKED to comment on what transpired at his conference on February 24 with the top Philippine diplomats then in Manila, President Quirino implied that there would be a reshuffle in the foreign service. He indicated that he was not

prepared to announce the reassignments since it is customary to ask the approval of the Governments to which the diplomats involved will be accredited before their new designations are finally announced. The President likewise confirmed that he had authorized Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla to suspend Commissioner Engracio Fabre in order that the immigration quota investigation may be facilitated.

HOLDING that attendance at gambling establishments “is inconsistent with that conduct of probity and integrity which should characterize the mode of life of the personnel of the Department of Finance and of the bureaus and offices under its jurisdiction, Secretary Pio Pedrosa on February 24 issued a memorandum order prohibiting finance officials and employees from indulging in gambling or haunting gambling places.

“PROPOSALS to coordinate and integrate the public information service of all the offices under the executive branch of the Government were discussed at an informal conference held on February 26 at Malacañan by public information officers of the offices under the executive departments of the Government. With Press Secretary Baldomero T. Olivera presiding, the group exchanged views on various phases of the problem of public information and agreed on some concrete measures, including the publication of an index to periodical literature to facilitate research work, and the compilation of background materials to be used in a brochure of facts and figures about the Philippines. The group also discussed preliminary plans in connection with the proposed production of informative films intended for exhibition in remote communities so that the activities of the Government and its program of action may be made known to the masses.

THE President on February 26 went out of his way to sign the Sotto Bill providing for the teaching of Spanish in Philippine secondary schools right in the residence of Senator Vicente Sotto, author of the measure, in San Juan, Rizal. From the Sotto residence, the President proceeded to the Spanish Legation to present a copy of the original measure (now Republic Act No. 343) to Spanish Minister Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas. The occasion was the opening of the Exposition of Spanish books at the Spanish Legation.

IN an extemporaneous remark on February 27 before a group of about 200 delegates of the Catholic Women’s League who paid their respects to him on the concluding day of their annual convention in Manila, President Quirino urged the women of the Philippines to use their influence in helping the menfolk in the Government to raise the standard of morality in the conduct of public affairs. The President remarked on the political issue in response to the information he received from the delegation that during the CWL convention the day before, a resolution was presented pledging the support of the League to the President’s policy of clean and honest government.

IN a move to further promote freedom of speech here, President Quirino on February 28 instructed City Mayor Manuel de la Fuente to reserve the part of the Sunken Gardens northwest of the City Hall as “Freedom Park.” It was indicated that this site will be reserved for all demonstrations and meetings where everybody will be permitted and encouraged to express his views on any subject under the sun.

THE immediate production of rice, corn and other food products, the speedy rehabilitation of dollar-producing industries, and the vigorous prosecution of dollar-saving projects such as light industries and handicrafts,—these are the principal features of the draft resolution submitted on February 28 to the National Economic Council by the technical committee in charge of priorities. Calculated to implement the Administration’s ₱200,000,000 development plan, the resolution, if adopted by the NEC, will be submitted to the President for approval.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: March, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino's increasing interest in the promotion of cordial relations between labor and management gained renewed impetus on March 1 when he asked the Cabinet to move swiftly to provide funds to cover the special budget of the Labor-Management Advisory Board. The amount of ₱25,000, representing the expenses of the Board from January 1 to June 30, 1949, was forthwith approved by the Cabinet, the sum to be prorated among the income-producing entities affiliated with the Government Enterprises Council.

IN behalf of the Filipino nation, the President on March 1 complimented Syngman Rhee, President of the Korean Republic, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Korea's struggle for independence. The President extended the Philippines' sincerest wishes for the continued success of the New Republic."

IN the presence of ranking Department of Education officials, President Quirino on March 1 signed the deed of sale transferring the site occupied by the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, to the U.P. Board of Regents. The property turned over comprises eight parcels of land in the Mariquina estate, aggregating 4,930,981.3 square meters. A token sum of P1.00 was paid by the state university to the Republic of the Philippines.

THROUGH the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Government on March 1 congratulated the Siamese Government for the choice of Bangkok as the seat of the International Rice Commission Conference scheduled to open there on March 7. The Philippine delegation to the IRC meet, headed by Undersecretary Jose S. Camus of Agriculture and Natural Resources, had previously been instructed by the President to convey to the Government of Siam this manifestation of goodwill by the Philippines.

THE Philippine Government on March 2 accepted the Italian invitation to participate in the 13th Levant Fair (Fiera del Levante) to be held in Bari, Rome, next September. The invitation was extended through the Philippine Legation in Rome by Dr. V. A. Atlante, vice-president of the fair.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 2 assured Dr. Y. T. Pyun, head of the Korean goodwill mission to the Philippines, that the Philippine Government would extend *de jure* recognition (as it subsequently did) to the UN-sponsored Republic of Korea.

THE policy of using Philippine Naval Patrol ships in carrying strictly Government interisland cargo was upheld by the Cabinet on March 2. This question was decided in view of a petition by the Philippine Shipowners' Association that such practice amounts to unfair competition. The Cabinet's position was taken primarily as an economy and rehabilitation measure. The Cabinet, however, underscored its policy prohibiting Government officials and employees from making use of PNP vessels in transporting personal or private cargoes.

THE sum of ₱20,000,000 was approved by the Cabinet on March 2 as an overdraft from any available Government funds to meet the expenses for elementary classes throughout the Philippines in order to assure their continuance until the ₱33,689,988 Deficiency Appropriation Bill pending in the current session of Congress is approved. The Budget Commissioner and the Secretary of Finance were understood to have wired instructions to authorities concerned in the provinces to proceed with the payment of salaries of teachers covered by this fund.

PRESIDENT Quirino's determination to sweep the Government clean of graft and corruption, which he reiterated in the wake of the Senate rumpus, elicited popular commendation and drew spontaneous support from all sections of the country in the form of telegraphic messages which started pouring into Malacañan early this month. The President's well-wishers assured him of their solid support in his crusade and expressed their renewed confidence in his leadership.

THE Cabinet on March 3 launched a large-scale agricultural and industrial project designed to make all the penal colonies in the country self-supporting. As approved, the project calls for the exploitation and development of the

natural resources of these penal institutions, and the utilization of the immense manpower at the disposal of the Bureau of Prisons.

IN formally bidding goodbye to his military adviser, Maj. Gen. Albert M. Jones, outgoing Chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group in the Philippines, at a farewell luncheon in Malacañan on March 4, President Quirino expressed confidence that Gen. Jones will exert all efforts to obtain adequate American military assistance for the Philippines. Responding, General Jones expressed his gratitude to the Filipino people and pledged to do everything he can for the Philippines in the future.

ADDRESSING Rotarians gathered at the Manila Hotel on March 4 in connection with the Sixth Conference of the 81st District of Rotary International, President Quirino emphasized the total economic mobilization program of the Government, underscoring the need for more alien capital, especially American, to come here to assist in this endeavor. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the complete texts of this and other speeches and pronouncements of the President in March 1949.*)

ANOTHER knot was tied in PI-Spanish relationship with the signing of two treaties between the Philippines and Spain on March 4; namely, the Treaty on Academic Degrees and the Exercise of Professions, and the Cultural Treaty. President Quirino, in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Spanish Minister Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas signed for their respective Governments. The ceremony took place in the Council of State room, Malacañan.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 5 enplaned for the Cagayan Valley on a three-day fact-finding tour of the area. This was in line with his policy of bringing the Government closer to the people and of finding out for himself actual conditions in remote areas of the country. That afternoon, before what was described as the largest crowd ever to assemble in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, the President formally opened the 1949 national interscholastic games. The President said he travelled a long distance to open the meet because he considers athletic competition conducive to the development of unity, oneness of purpose and sportsmanship in the national character.

THE National Economic Council on March 7 whipped into final form the draft resolution implementing the Administration's ₱200,000,000 development plan, which the committee on priorities had previously submitted to that body. The resolution will subsequently be submitted to President Quirino for final approval.

ADDRESSING a big crowd in Ilagan, Isabela, on March 7, President Quirino urged the people to maintain calm during these troubled days. He emphasized that emotions should not be permitted to confuse the real issue of clean, honest and efficient government which he described as the primary aim of his Administration.

IN his wind-up speech at the Ilagan (Isabela) airstrip the morning of March 8, the President declared that he did not make the trip to ask for votes "but merely to seek inspiration and encouragement and to assure myself that the people are behind me in my crusade for a clean, honest and dignified government."

"IMMEDIATELY after landing in Manila on March 8, President Quirino met his A Cabinet and informed them of conditions as he saw them in the places he visited. The President said he found the people up North vigorously devoting full time to agricultural production, adding that he was very much impressed by the high civic spirit and cooperative attitude of the Cagayan people toward the Government. As a result of his trip, the President said, he was now better prepared to take immediate steps to expand major valley industries in line with his ₱200,000,000 economic development program.

AMERICAN Ambassador Myron Cowen, in a cable from Canberra, Australia, on March 8, expressed his gratitude for the felicitation which Ambassador Manuel V. Gallego had sent him on the occasion of the confirmation of his appointment as head of the U.S. Embassy here. On the same day, the Department of Foreign Affairs transmitted to the President a cablegram from the Government of the Republic of Korea, expressing its gratitude and deepest appreciation for the *de jure* recognition of its independent nationhood extended it by the Philippine Government.

THE authority of the United States Maritime Commission to charter vessels and to extend the chartering rights to Filipino citizens is extended up to June 20, this year, by virtue of Public Law No. 12 passed by the U. S. Congress and signed by President Truman. This was the information transmitted on March 8 to Malacañan, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, by the Philippine Embassy in Washington.

THE President on March 9 took up with Maj. Gen. Hugh Casey, chief engineer of SCAP and former adviser of the National Power Corporation, the vital aspects of the Government's power development program, including the hydroelectric power plants in Itogon, Ambuklaw, Lumot and Maria Cristina. Gen. Casey has been requested by the NPC to assist its engineers and consultants in reviewing and whipping into form the Government's overall power development program.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 9 addressed an urgent letter to the Philippine Senate requesting immediate action on House Bill No. 2313 appropriating more than ₱33,000,000 to cover the operation and maintenance of about 6,000 additional elementary classes, and which likewise provides for the adjustment of salaries of school teachers. In his letter, the President said it is "imperative" that action on the Deficiency Bill be expedited because "the national interest requires that the orderly conduct of these classes be undisturbed."

MALACAÑAN on March 9 turned over to the Secretary of Justice for appropriate action the report of the Alvendia committee recommending criminal action against persons involved in allegedly anomalous surplus property transactions at the Cebu base involving over ₱1,000,000.

THE wholesale exploitation of the ramie industry in the Philippines, including the manufacture of ramie fiber into finished products both for local use and for export, was recommended to the President on March 10 by Dr. Ariston J. Hermano, chief chemist of the National Development Company. Dr. Hermano, who had just concluded a study of ramie manufacture in Japan, called on the President in a ramie suit which, he said, was manufactured in Japan "out of ramie fibers imported from the Philippines."

JEWELRY belonging to the Laurel and Osias families, which had been confiscated by SCAP at the Philippine Embassy Building in Tokyo, Japan, were formally restituted to their owners at a brief ceremony in Malacañan on March 10. President Quirino, acting for the Government, conveyed the Laurel property to Mrs. Jose P. Laurel and two other members of the Laurel family, while Mrs. Camilo Osias received the Osias property.

A RECORD crowd of some 15,000 Philippine veterans, war widows and orphans lustily cheered on March 10 when the Chief Executive declared that "I am with you 100 per cent in all your demands." The occasion was the demonstration on the Malacañan grounds by the Philippine veterans.

A PROPOSAL to hold a conference of representatives of weather services from Japan, China, Hongkong, Siam, Indo-China and the Philippines, to discuss means of improving existing systems of typhoon warnings to ports, shipping and aircraft, was approved by the Cabinet on March 11. The conference is scheduled to be held in Manila on or before April 1, 1949.

NORRIS E. Dodd, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, on March 11 assured President Quirino that the FAO will give its full support to any venture calculated to speed up the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines. The President, on the other hand, reiterated his desire to see foreign capital invested in the Philippines as a measure to speed up its rehabilitation.

THE first financial outlay under the Government's ₱200,000,000 economic development program was released by the Central Bank of the Philippines on March 11. This initial investment in income-producing projects, amounting to ₱469,200, was advanced by the Central Bank to the Treasurer of the Philippines who in turn will advance the sum to the National Development Company, The NDC will then use the money as first payment for the construction of three 10,000-ton ocean-going vessels to be built in Japan under the supervision of SCAP.

COMMENTING on the statement made in the Senate on March 11 by Senator Camilo Osias that the Government corporations are losing ₱1,000,000 a month Finance Secretary Pio Pedrosa stated that the fiscal year 1948 operations

of 13 corporations yielded profits of 23.6 million (excluding net proceeds of ₱33.9 million of fund-raising agencies—Surplus Property Commission, Shipping Administration and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes), while 7 corporations incurred losses amounting to ₱9.9 million, leaving a net gain of 13.7 million, thus discounting the gravity of the Osias allegation.

SPEAKING before a large group of provincial and city delegates to the annual convention of the League of District and City Health Officers on March 12 at the Malacañan Social Hall, President Quirino lauded the delegates' fine work in conserving the health of the nation, and urged them to "keep up with the good work." The delegates presented a memorial to the President congratulating him for his achievements and reaffirming their loyalty to him and support of his administration.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 13 received assurance from the Philippine Contractors Association that all efforts will be exerted by the contractors to hasten the completion of the Administration's rehabilitation and reconstruction program. The occasion was a cocktail party given by the Chief Executive in the Palace during the concluding day of the contractors' convention.

PRONOUNCING a major policy decision, President Quirino on March 14 invited private enterprise to take over the money-making industrial projects of the Government as a measure designed to give incentive to private capital and to prevent Government competition with private enterprise. This far-reaching pronouncement was made by the Chief Executive at the meeting of the National Economic Council on that date.

IN his fifth monthly radio chat on March 15, the President commented lengthily on recent major developments, including the Supreme Court decision on the Senate row, over which he expressed elation stating that the matter was solved through peaceful processes and the due course of law. Blasting at his critics, the President answered the current attacks on his Administration, including the charges of dictatorship, fascism, lawlessness, school crisis and the allegations that he is a vindictive official. He wound up his radio chat by calling upon the Filipino people to unite together and work and meet the challenge for national sobriety and sense of proportion.

THE Administration's economic development program took another decided step forward on March 15 when President Quirino formally approved the resolution of the National Economic Council outlining the schedule of priorities of the income-producing industries that will receive immediate financial support from the ₱200,000,000 development fund. The President likewise approved the short-term development blueprint of the NEC immediately making available to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation funds for financing private or Government projects with top priority.

PRESIDENT Quirino condoled with the family of Director of Prisons Eriberto B. Misa who passed away on March 15, a victim of heart disease. Director Misa, who was 59 at the time of his death, had been in the public service for 25 years and had been responsible for many penal reforms in the country, particularly in the Muntinlupa Prisons.

REAR Admirals Francis P. Old and Ralph W. Christie, incoming and outgoing commander of the United States Naval Forces in the Philippines, respectively, formally paid their respects to the President on March 17. Both were honored at luncheon by the Chief Executive on March 19.

MEMBERS of the Capital City Planning Commission on March 17 were congratulated by President Quirino for their speed in finishing the master plan of the Capital City. The President and other high Government officials had a "preview" of the Capital City when the Council of State room in Malacañan was converted into a display room for 16 illustrative maps and five clay models depicting various aspects of the project.

THE Cabinet on March 18 approved the proposal to send a delegation of Philippine educators to the International Educational Conference scheduled to be held in the United States in April. The following were designated members of the Philippine delegation upon recommendation of Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcaon: Antonio A. Maceda, Abdon Javier and Isaac Decena.

DRASTIC measures to stamp out reported abuses by tax collectors and other Government officials who are said to be victimizing certain business establishments, especially in the Manila area, were ordered taken immediately by President Quirino during the Cabinet meeting on March 18. The President called for an intensified campaign to curb such abuses which, he said, tend to undermine the confidence of the people in the Government.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs on March 18 took a hand in the much-publicized case of Lorenzo Gamboa, an American citizen and U. S. Army enlisted man of Filipino parentage, who had been refused permission by Australian authorities to visit his wife and two children in Australia. Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri wired inquiries to the Philippine Mission in Tokyo and to the Consul General in Sydney, Australia, requesting verification on the matter.

DECLARING that teaching "is certainly not a profession but an apostleship," President Quirino on March 18 reaffirmed his "great faith in the spirit of service" of the country's school officials and teachers. The occasion was the signing by the Chief Executive of two bills appropriating an aggregate sum of ₱45,698,988 to cover the deficiency in the current appropriation for the operation and maintenance of existing elementary classes and for the adjustment of the salaries of public school officials, teachers and other personnel of the Bureau of Public Schools.

UPON representation of Senator Lorenzo Tañada and Baler Mayor Pedro V. Guerrero, President Quirino on March 19 directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to see to the immediate erection of a fitting memorial to the late President Quezon in his hometown, Baler, Quezon.

THE National Economic Council on March 19 set into motion the machinery for the intensification of rice production by approving the recommendations of the committee on agricultural policy for hastening the completion of the Government's various rice projects. The Council also voted an initial sum of ₱1,000,000 to the National Power Corporation for the Lumot project.

HOUSE Bill No. 1209 (now Republic Act No. 344), which eliminates the specific tax on skimmed milk (milk from which the fatty part has been removed), was signed by the President on March 21. The law will benefit the great mass of the population who are deficient in nutrition because skimmed milk in sufficient quantities can be reconstituted into full cream milk by the addition of the proper amount of cream.

A PACIFIC Defense Pact, more or less patterned after the now famous North Atlantic Pact, with the United States taking the initiative, was advocated by President Quirino in an exclusive interview with the *United Press* on March 21. Prominently played up by the press throughout the world, the President's proposal for a defense pact for all Pacific countries, drew widespread and for the most part favorable reaction. Typical reaction abroad was reported by Minister Narciso Ramos in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who said that Latin-American newspapers, including the influential *La Prensa*, prominently featured the Quirino proposal. Minister Ramos congratulated the President for the initiative in advocating the proposed pact.

A CALL for economic statesmanship coupled with moral leadership in order to achieve a society in the Philippines in which the humblest man may live under conditions of freedom, dignity and equal opportunity, was sounded by President Quirino during his commencement address at the Philippine Women's University on March 22.

IMMEDIATE suspension of the exportation of scrap iron was ordered by Cabinet on March 22 in a move designed to conserve scrap metal for use in steel plant which the Government plans to establish in the near future. The decision was made upon recommendation of Secretary of Public Works and Communication Ricardo Nepomuceno.

A BILL fathered by Congressman Zosa of Cebu, appropriating ₱100,000 for the publication in book form of the speeches, messages and other writings of the late President Manuel Roxas, was signed by President Quirino on March 23.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 23 reiterated his policy of "distributing men in the fields in which they are best qualified," after administering the oath of office to Eustaquio Balagtas as Director of Prisons. On the same day, the Chief Executive issued urgent instructions to Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla and Secretary of Public Works and

Communications Nepomuceno to take immediate criminal and administrative action against postmasters and other municipal officials in Lanao and Cotabato reported to have been racketeering in war damage payments.

PRELIMINARY steps for the proposed sale of the Binalbagar-Isabela Sugar Company, a semi-Government entity, were started on March 23, following representations made with President Quirino by the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters for the purchase of the company. A committee of five was appointed by the President to assess the value of the sugar firm.

A 4-MAN delegation to represent the Philippines at the Conference of the Committee on the Whole, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which was scheduled to open on March 28 in Bangkok, Siam, was appointed by the Cabinet on March 23. Those named were PRATRA General Manager Ildefonso Coscolluela, Director of Commerce Saturnino Mendinueto, Bias Gomez and Jose E. Velmonte.

A NEW set of currency in the Philippines was approved by the Cabinet in its meeting on March 25. In accordance with the recommendation of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, the face of the notes will bear the photographs of dead Filipino heroes and the reverse side will bear attractive vignettes of some historically famous Philippine scene, building or monument, or an allegorical design.

THE overall situation of three of the principal industries of the Philippines, sugar, coconut and abaca, was extensively discussed by Government experts and private businessmen in three successive meetings held on March 25 in the Council of State room in Malacañan, in the presence of William Gilmartin and Eric Beecroft, World Bank officials who were commissioned to conduct a survey of these and other industries here, particularly the progress made to date and the rehabilitation projects connected with them.

SPEAKING extemporaneously on the occasion of the formal opening of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks clubhouse on the Luneta on March 26, President Quirino declared that the United States cannot afford to neglect the Pacific Basin which he described as "the richest and most important area in the world today." He took occasion to amplify on his previous statement regarding the need for a Pacific Defense Pact by saying: "With the North Atlantic Pact, you are guarding your front door. But, you need to guard your backdoor, too." His audience was predominantly American.

FOUR top brass of the Siamese Army, who are on a tour of study in the Philippines, the United States and Europe, were among the Presidential callers on March 28. They were Maj. Gen. D. Dejpradiyudl, chief of the General Staff of the Siamese Army; Maj. Gen. Vichien Sutan, director of arsenal; Maj. Gen. Chamnong Bhumivet, director of welfare; and Col. T. Upathambananda, deputy surgeon-general. They were accompanied by E. A. Perkins, consul-general for Siam.

THE establishment of an Applied Science Laboratory under the National Development Company "to coordinate the research and investigational work of Government-owned or controlled corporations" was approved in principle by the National Economic Council on March 28. The Council also considered a proposal to amend Commonwealth Act No. 138, otherwise known as the Flag Law, so as to allow increased participation of foreign capital in local investment.

AN ambitious 10-year program for rice production in the Philippines, designed to make the country not only rice sufficient after the tenth year but able to produce sizable surplus quantities for export, was revealed on March 28 by Felipe Buencamino, Jr., newly-appointed overall director of the rice production program of the Government.

PRESIDENT Quirino's radio address in the national language, which he gave in conjunction with the National Language Week celebrations which started on May 27, proved to be the much-needed shot for the propagation of the national language here. Speaking in Tagalog, the President declared that "it will not be long before the national language shall be used by all in our conversations with one another, in our dealings with the Government, in education and learning, in commerce and industry, and on all occasions to prove that we have one race, one tongue, one country."

ASSURANCE that the Government does not authorize landlords to eject tenants who refuse to sign contracts giving them shares below the 70-30 minimum provided for in the present Tenancy Law, was made by President Quirino before a big delegation of some 500 tenants from Central Luzon who called on him at Malacañan on March 30. The delegation came to protest about alleged abuses of certain Central Luzon landlords who reportedly have been forcing their tenants to sign contracts providing for sharing systems unacceptable to the latter.

IMPROVED passenger service of the Manila Railroad Company has been assured as a result of the approval by the President of a loan amounting to ₱1,900,000 for the purchase by the Government rail firm of 40 coaches. This was the third in a series of recent rehabilitation measures taken by the MUR to replenish its units lost during the war.

THE Philippine position of leadership in the Far East today was emphasized during the exchange of greetings between President Quirino and Dr. John R. Mott, 85-year-old honorary president of the World's Alliance of YMCA's, during the luncheon given by the President for Dr. Mott at Malacañan on March 31.

IN the presence of high ranking Government officials, Col. Amado N. Bautista was sworn into office as General Manager of the National Development Company by President Quirino on March 31. Bautista was appointed to replace Vicente Sabalvaro. Other important Presidential appointments during the month included those of Eustaquio Balagtas as Director of Prisons, Felipe Buencamino, Jr., as overall director of the rice production program of the Government, Pablo J. Noroña as manager of the NDC rice production project in Mindoro, former Governor Leoncio Imperial of Albay as Technical Assistant at Malacañan, former Press Secretary Vicente Albano Pacis as Foreign Affairs Officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and of Juan J. Carlos of the Philippine Contractors Association as board member, People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

THE President wound up his official acts for the month by signing Executive Order No. 209, amending the Import Control Law, to provide further inducement to Filipino importers to participate in the import trade by awarding them exclusive quota rights under certain conditions.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: April, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino on April 1 took further steps to strengthen the economic position of the country, first, by directing the utilization of all lands under the jurisdiction of farm schools for the production of food crops, especially rice, and second, by issuing an Executive Order providing further inducement to Filipino importers to participate, in the import trade.

ACTING upon the recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet on April 1 granted *de jure* recognition to the newly formed State of Israel.

IN line with his policy of bringing the Government closer to the people, President Quirino on April 2 made a fact-finding trip to Zambales. He was accompanied by several Congressmen and representatives of the Manila press. Immediately upon landing at the San Marcelino airstrip, the President motored to San Narciso, stopping enroute at San Antonio and other Zambales towns where he addressed the people in Ilocano, acquainting them with the Administration's achievements and its plans for the economic development of Zambales, particularly its irrigation system. He also touched on the restoration of peace and order in the country and his efforts to maintain a clean and honest government. The Chief Executive returned to Manila on April 4.

THE Philippine Government suffered another serious loss among the ranks of its old-timers when death came to Eulogio B. Rodriguez, Director of Public Libraries, on April 3. The 55-year-old librarian, lecturer, educator and historian, died at the Philippine General Hospital, a victim of encephalitis with diabetes. Rodriguez entered the Government service in 1914. In condoling with the bereaved family of the late Director, President Quirino said that he was shocked by the unexpected news of Rodriguez' death, adding that "the library profession in the Philippines has lost one of its few pioneering leaders in his passing."

THE National Economic Council on April 4 recommended to the President the establishment of a Steel Mill and Machinery Department under the National Development Company. The steel mill, it was indicated, will have an initial monthly capacity of 1,500 tons (18,000 tons annually) and will produce bars and rods, utilizing for the purpose iron and steel scraps. The proposed machinery department is designed to make full use of the reparations machines from Japan which can manufacture tools necessary for local industrial and agricultural needs.

PRESIDENT Quirino on April 4 was formally informed of the charges filed against him in Congress. Calm and unperturbed, the President declared that he knew that these charges were being filed against him "for political effect." He said that he was anxious that "my ill-wishers would present ail charges they know immediately," adding that he was eager to dispose of this matter as soon as possible. "I am confident that everybody will be satisfied after the facts are known," he said.

UNDERSECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri, in a press statement on April 4, endorsed President Quirino's proposal for a Pacific Security Alliance. Neri pointed out that the problems posed by such an alliance, tremendous though they may be, are not insurmountable, and can be met by both short and long-term planning based on the common sense principle of "first things first."

THE President on April 5 admonished the members of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce delegation to the International Chamber of Commerce conference in Brussels, to acquit themselves creditably and to exert special efforts, during their trip in Europe and the United States, "in presenting facts and figures to show that possibilities for investment in the Philippines are unlimited."

PRESIDENT Quirino's first formal reaction to the impeachment charges against him in Congress was manifested in his letter to Speaker Eugenio Perez on April 5, urging the latter to take immediate action on the impeachment resolution "so as not to allow the people a moment of suspense in their judgment as to my personal and official integrity."

IMPROVED health conditions throughout the Philippines were emphasized by Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama in a progress report which he submitted to the President on April 8. The Villarama report indicated a considerable drop in death rate throughout the country from an average of 15 persons per 1,000 population in January 1946 to 12 by the end of 1948. The fight against tuberculosis and malaria has also shown remarkable progress, according to the report.

IN his progress report submitted to the President on April 7, Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla declared that his Department during the past year had geared its machinery toward speedier administration of justice in order to hasten the establishment of peace and order throughout the country. The report underscored the fact that a great increase had been achieved in the disposal of cases "despite lack of appropriate facilities" in many Courts of First Instance.

SECRETARY of Public Works and Communications Ricardo Nepomuceno took up the cudgels for President Quirino in a communication to Speaker Perez on April 7. Disclosing the facts in connection with the charges in Congress against the President, Secretary Nepomuceno emphasized that the Chief Executive "did not intervene in any manner whatsoever" in the purchase of the Russian cement which was specified as one of the charges in the impeachment resolution against the President. Nepomuceno likewise bared the facts surrounding the reconditioning of the official guest house for the then Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 1947, stating that such expenses were authorized by the late President Roxas and were in the account of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

IN the presence of members of the Capital City Planning Commission, the President on April 8 affixed his signature to the Master Plan for the Capital City and the Commission's report containing specifications of the Master Plan.

A TWO-POINT program calculated to focus national attention on child health and welfare was submitted to President Quirino on April 8 by a delegation of ranking health and education officials, nutritionists, and social and relief workers led by Undersecretary of Health Regino G. Padua. The program calls for (1) a national survey of actual child health conditions throughout the country, and (2) the holding of a National Congress on child health and welfare in Manila.

PRELIMINARY steps for the sale to private interests of another Government-owned enterprise were started on April 9 following representations made with Malacañan by the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters to purchase the Insular Sugar Refining Corporation of the National Development Company. To provide a working basis for negotiations, the President appointed a committee of five to assess the value of the corporation.

A SET of official communications from ranking Government officials, addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, all of which purported to clarify certain facts brought to light in the charges against the President, was released by the Malacañan Office of Public Information on April 9. Included among these letters was one from the President himself who expressed his desire to have the charges heard immediately. Budget Commissioner Pio Joven rectified the alleged extravagant expenditures by the President, saying that these expenses were charged against the corresponding funds authorized by law, while Undersecretary Felino Neri of Foreign Affairs denied the allegation that diplomatic passports had been issued by his Department to certain ladies on the strength of the President's recommendations. Other communications, more or less in the same vein, came from Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Ricardo Nepomuceno, Judge Antonio Quirino, the President's brother; and Mrs. Amalia Pastor, Malacanan Social Secretary.

PRESIDENT Quirino on April 9 flew up to Baguio for a brief rest. Day following his arrival in the Pines City, he visited the Baguio carnival grounds, accompanied by Baguio City Mayor Jose Cariño and other city officials.

ON April 11, the President announced in Baguio that he would mark the beginning of his second year as Chief Executive by putting into execution a concrete program of action to implement the general principles he laid down when he launched his new Philippine ideology last February. "We have laid the groundwork for our economic mobilization; from now on it will just be a matter of execution," he declared. In the evening of the same day, before a group of Manila newsmen, the President answered Justice Claro Recto's views on Philippine foreign policy, saying that they are "not based on facts." Refuting Recto's contentions point by point, the President said that the

Philippines has a consistent record in espousing the cause of Asian countries, that it does not follow American policy blindly, and that the Pacific Pact is predicated on the political and economic independence of the Asian countries.

THE establishment of Philippine National Bank branches in strategic areas in order to make the Government's credit facilities accessible to small enterprises in the remote corners of the Philippines, was approved by the Cabinet in Baguio on April 12. The Cabinet also (1) decided to take what President Quirino termed "immediate and determined" steps to construct several major irrigation projects in different parts of the country, (2) ordered intensification of guarding the Philippine coasts, and (3) took added steps to minimize dissident forays in certain troubled areas.

TO implement the President's rice production program, the Cabinet, at its special session in Baguio on April 13, approved the immediate release of P10,000,000 to start off construction of irrigation projects throughout the country. Fourteen projects in different rice producing centers of the Islands were singled out for immediate construction.

The Cabinet likewise approved the sale of Government-manufactured hollow blocks to Government employees at reduced rates to assist them in the construction of their homes.

During the same Cabinet meeting, President Quirino advised Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri to instruct Minister Bernabe Africa in Tokyo to grant temporary visitor's visa to all foreign correspondents who may wish to visit the Philippines, thus breaking a standing regulation in foreign service procedure which requires consultation of the foreign establishment with the home office before the issuance of visitor's visa.

ACTING swiftly on the heels of the news about the P8,000,000 fire in Cebu City in the afternoon of April 18, President Quirino early the next morning started setting into motion all Government relief agencies to render speedy aid to the some 10,000 fire victims. The PNRC, the PRATRA, the Social Welfare Commission and other Government welfare and relief agencies were all mobilized by the President to rush all possible aid to Cebu.

FROM the Mansion House in Baguio, the President in the evening of April 15 delivered his sixth monthly radio chat to the nation in conjunction with the radio program honoring the first anniversary of the death of the late President Roxas. The Chief Executive extolled the sterling qualities and virtues of the late leader, enumerated the difficulties he (Roxas) had to contend with in his Administration, and wound up by painting a vivid picture of present-day conditions and appealing for "a greater sense of sobriety and proportion." Another speaker on the same program was the late Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon.

REMINDED by newspapermen that April 17 was the first anniversary of his incumbency as Chief Magistrate of the land, and asked to comment on his program for the ensuing year, President Quirino declared that the Administration's economic mobilization program has already been formulated and that funds are available for carrying it out. He said that he would devote his full time to the speeding up of that program.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of Public Information, Malacañan, simultaneously announced on April 18 the resignation of Modesto Faro-Ian as Philippine Consul-General in the Territory of Hawaii, Guam and the Marianas Group, effective upon the expiration of his leave. Farolan completed two years' foreign duty as Consul-General upon leaving Honolulu last December 29, 1948.

PRESIDENT Quirino announced on April 18 the acceptance by the Philippine Government of the appointment of Maj. Gen. Jonathan Anderson as Chief of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) in the Philippines. General Anderson replaced Maj. Gen. Albert M. Jones, who left for the United States last month.

THE Department of National Defense has made good progress in building up the country's defense structure in accordance with the basic defense plans recently formulated with the approval of President Quirino, according to the progress report submitted to the President by National Defense Secretary Ruperto Kangleon covering the period from April 15, 1948 to March 31, 1949. The Kangleon report indicated that during this period, intensive studies of

the strategic and tactical requirements of the defense of the country were conducted with the result that there are now two different and distinct defense plans which the Armed Forces of the Philippines can adopt, depending on the circumstances at the time of any possible aggression against the Philippines.

COMPLETE rehabilitation of the sugar industry on the Island of Negros within this year was predicted in a report submitted to the Chief Executive. and the Cabinet on April 19 by Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido Mapa. Mapa's report was based on his observation on the rehabilitation of the sugar industry in Negros Occidental during his inspection trip to that province from April 9 to 15.

MALACAÑAN announced on April 20 that President Quirino had instructed all Government entities concerned to find means of immediately making payments to victims who have been defrauded of their Army benefits by forgers. The President was reported to have made it a policy that where the responsibility for payment of Army benefits to wrong parties rests with Government entities, efforts should be exerted to make the benefits available to the victimized individuals instead of making them wait for legal settlement between the agencies concerned.

EMPHASIS in the Government's campaign to completely restore tranquility in Central Luzon will be shifted to dissemination of information, according to another Malacañan announcement on April 20. The shift in emphasis was reportedly based on the Administration's belief that the remaining dissidents in Central Luzon would be completely won over to the Government's side once they are informed of what the Government is actually doing for them.

THE public school system in the Philippines witnessed a tremendous expansion during the school year just concluded, with practically all children of elementary school age accommodated and the number of high schools increased to 267 with a total enrollment of 166,695, compared to 236 high schools with an aggregate enrollment of 159,398 during the preceding school year (1947-1948). This was the information contained in a progress report submitted to the President on April 21 by Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcaon. The report also disclosed phenomenal progress and expansion in vocational and adult education, teacher training, private education, public libraries, and the propagation of the national language.

CUSTOMS and revenue collections for the one-year period from April 1948 to March 1949 "exceeded the brightest expectations" by amounting to P278,131,833.30, according to figures released by the Department of Finance on April 21. Describing this marked increase in the customs and revenue collections as one of the outstanding accomplishments of the first year of President Quirino's Administration, Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa pointed out that the amount "has greatly contributed to the balancing of the national budget."

PROMINENT educators of the land, headed by Gabriel Manalac as Chairman, were appointed by the President on April 22 to the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters. The Commission, created through Republic Act No. 176, takes over the functions of the prewar National Council of Education, in addition to serving as advisory body to the President on UNESCO affairs.

THE Cabinet on April 22 took necessary measures to prevent further explosions in the Bauan (Batangas) ammunition dump by ordering the dumping of all remaining explosives into the sea. On the recommendation of Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, the Cabinet authorized the expenditure of P60,000 for the disposal of the approximately 33,000 pieces of bombs in the Bauan dump.

THE immediate establishment of a Philippine Legation in Bangkok was approved by the Cabinet on April 22. This decision was reached on the basis of information from Ambassador Joaquin Elizalde to the effect that formal diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Siam had been established effective April 19, 1949.

THE P600,000 child-feeding program in the Philippines under the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for under-privileged children and expectant and nursing mothers, is now underway and will stand to benefit some 13,600 children and 1,700 mothers at an average per capita cost of P40. This was revealed by James E. McCall, manager of the UNICEF Child Feeding Program here, in a radio talk during the Social Welfare Commission hour over Station DZFM on April 22. Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez is the Chairman of the administrative committee of the UNICEF program in the Philippines.

PRESIDENT Quirino's "fair minded comments" on Australia's "White Policy," as revealed in his recent interview in Baguio with Dennis Warner, *Reuters* correspondent who first broke the Gamboa story, "received widespread favorable publicity" in Australia, according to a radiogram received by the President on April 23 from Colin Jupp in Melbourne. Jupp added that the Gamboa case was a "major blunder here."

THE Huk army, once a "well-knit organization capable of putting up a concerted and protracted resistance against Government forces," has been demoralized into "small, impotent roving bands, evading contact as much as possible with Government forces, holding up in mountains or swamps, and venturing out in the open only to forage for food and other necessities." This was the gist of a report submitted to the President by Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos, Chief of Constabulary, through the Secretary of the Interior. The report extensively reviewed the accomplishments of the PC in conjunction with the peace and order campaign of the Government.

AMINOR shuffle in foreign diplomatic assignments was effected on April 23 as follows: Consul Meynardo Farol to be Consul in New Delhi, India; Vicente L. Pastrana to serve as Foreign Affairs Officer at large in the home office; Vice-Consul Pelagio Llamas to become Vice-Consul in Shanghai; Consul Delfin Garcia to become Second Secretary and Consul in Nanking; Melquiades Ibanes to become Second Secretary in Rome; Jose Alejandrino to become First Secretary in Bangkok; and Carlos Faustino to become Third Secretary and Vice-Consul in Bangkok.

PRESIDED over by President Quirino, the Council of State at its meeting on April 23 in the Mansion House, Baguio, approved several Administration measures, including a bill authorizing the National Power Corporation to increase its power to contract indebtedness from P20,000,000 to P172,500,000, and a companion bill authorizing the NPC to contract loans from the International Bank for reconstruction and development. Other measures approved were those appropriating P10,000,000 for the operation of the Philippine Veterans Board, and P6,000,000 to defray the expenses of the forthcoming National Elections.

AN appeal for all-out support of the Administration's total economic mobilization program was voiced by President Quirino on April 24 in an impassioned speech at the first homecoming celebration of U. P. alumni at the new U. P. campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The Chief Executive flew down from Baguio to attend the affair. Speaking extemporaneously, the President enumerated some of the Government projects now being prosecuted, and acquainted his audience with facts and figures in connection with future economic mobilization plans of this Administration.

BEFORE returning to Baguio on April 25, President Quirino administered the oath of office to three of the four new members of the Oil Commission; namely, Secretary of Justice Sabino Padilla, Senator Prospero Sanidad and NDO General Manager Amado N. Bautista. Congressman Domingo Paguirigan is the fourth member of the Commission.

THE National Economic Council on April 25 considered several pending proposals, including, principally, a plan for the rehabilitation of the gold mining industry in the Philippines, and a request for an P18,000,000 construction loan by the Metropolitan Water District. Tuning up on the Administration's industrialization program, the Council constituted itself into several Committees to consider ways and means of immediately implementing the various aspects of the industrialization projects.

UNDERSECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri announced on April 26 the establishment of a Consulate General in Manila by the Indian Government, with Jogindra Singh as Consul General. The Department was understood to have informed the Indian Government that it welcomed the establishment of such a post and that Mr. Singh was acceptable to the Philippine Government.

ACCEPTANCE of the offer made recently to the Philippine Government by General Electric, Inc., of the services of one of its experts to assist in studying and determining the industries and projects that might possibly derive power from the proposed hydroelectric power plant at Maria Cristina, has been recommended to the President by the National Economic Council, Malacañan announced on April 26. The offer was accepted in principle by the NEC. The same day, the NEC submitted to the President specific recommendations for a program of long-term and short-term Government assistance to private abaca planters in Mindanao, the idea being to facilitate the early rehabilitation and development of the abaca industry in that area.

AMBASSADOR Carlos P. Romulo, who arrived here by plane on April 25 to fulfil a speaking engagement at the University of the Philippines, on April 27 had a lengthy conference with the President at the Mansion House in Baguio. Important policy matters were taken up during the confab, including the President's sponsorship of the formation of a Pacific Union. Among other matters reportedly discussed were two items on the General Assembly agenda,—the Indonesian question and the White Australia policy. The Ambassador was accompanied by Undersecretary Neri,

THE entire nation was shocked early in the evening of April 28 when news of the tragic death earlier in the day of Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon and 11 other members of her party, all victims of a Huk ambush near the Quezon-Nueva Ecija boundary, was flashed by radio and splashed on "extras" put out by several Manila dailies. The President, who was in Baguio at the time, reportedly received the news silently and calmly as if he had been informed of the death of his own mother.

Besides Mrs. Quezon, the victims of the ambush included her daughter Maria Aurora "Baby" Quezon, her son-in-law Philip Buencamino III, Mayor Ponciano Bernardo of Quezon City, Col. Antonio San Agustin and Lt. Col. Primitivo San Agustin.

After recovering from the first effects of the tragic news, the President (1) asked former Speaker Jose Yulo to serve as his personal representative to make the necessary arrangements for the dead, (2) called upon Generals Mariano Castañeda and Alberto Ramos to summon all available forces for a full-dress campaign to eliminate the bandits in the Nueva Ecija area, and (8) ordered Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista to mobilize all possible assistance to the wounded. The President himself came down from Baguio the next morning to take a hand in the funeral arrangements.

Mrs. Quezon and her daughter and son-in-law were buried the afternoon of April 29, with the President acting as the principal pall-bearer for the body of Mrs. Quezon, in whose memory he declared a period of national mourning and ordered the Philippine flag to be flown at half-mast throughout the country for nine days.

As a result of the Quezon tragedy, President Quirino summoned his Cabinet to map out Government measures to completely wipe out the lawless elements in Central Luzon. The President likewise summoned Generals Castañeda and Ramos to whom he issued fresh orders for the summary elimination of dissident depredations. Also present at the Cabinet meeting was Maj. Gen. Rafael Jalandoni, lone survivor in the Quezon death car, who gave a first-hand account of the massacre.

In the evening of April 29, a few hours after Mrs. Quezon and the immediate members of her family were laid to rest, President Quirino, in a nation-wide address over the radio, reiterated his determination to use everything in the power of the Government to eradicate lawlessness, at the same time issuing an appeal "to all civilized elements in our country to cooperate in this all-out effort by guarding against playing into the hands of our common enemy for selfish political ends." Meanwhile, messages of condolence from all over the country and from abroad, started pouring into Malacañan and the Department of Foreign Affairs in the morning of April 29.

AT its special meeting on April 30, the Cabinet approved the conversion of the site on which Mrs. Quezon died into a national forest preserve to be known as the Aurora Memorial Park as a further step to honor the memory of the former First Lady.

LOCAL authors will be given more incentive to produce literary masterpieces under a proposed bill which the Cabinet decided to recommend as an Administration measure on April 30. In endorsing the proposal, the President expressed hope that the bill, if enacted, will promote and develop local literature.

During the same meeting, the Cabinet also took up two measures affecting veterans and guerrillas; namely, (1) the creation of a Guerrilla Board to take a census of deserving but still unrecognized guerrillas for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of their legitimate claims, and (2) the creation of another Committee to select a site for the construction of a building for war widows, orphans and disabled veterans from funds raised by the Committee jointly headed by Mrs. Manuel A. Roxas and the then Vice-President Quirino.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Official Month in Review: May 1949

PRESIDENT Quirino delivered three important speeches during the first week of May, the first at the Sunken Gardens on the occasion of the Labor Day celebration on May 1, and the second and third, respectively, the following day, at the Basa Airbase at Floridablanca, Pampanga, in the morning in conjunction with the graduation exercises for 27 aviation cadets, and at the Manila Hotel at noon on the occasion of the opening day of the two-day convention of the Philippine Association of Agriculturists. All three speeches were delivered extemporaneously.

Before a crowd of about 500,000, the President, in his Labor Day address, discoursed on the Republic's plans for the achievement of labor's rightful heritage, bitterly assailing "the forces which would sow the seeds of disunion."

His Floridablanca speech centered on the role of the air force in the maintenance of internal security and stability as a vital measure towards the realization of the country's economic development program, while his talk at the Manila Hotel carried an appeal to the agriculturists to forget politics and redouble their efforts to produce more food and other necessities "before hunger sets in."

THE Office of the President on May 2 received a resolution from the "Damayang Baler," an organization of Manila residents from Baler, Quezon, numbering about 100 persons, volunteering their services in the campaign against outlaws responsible for the death of Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon and her companions.

Meanwhile, messages of condolence from all parts of the country and abroad continued to pour into Malacañan. Notable among these messages were those from Pope Pius XII, Justice Frank Murphy, former Gov. Gen. Francis Burton Harrison, the Chief of the Spanish State, the Minister of Sweden, U. S. Attorney General Tom C. Clark, Writer Vincent Sheean, and Colin W. Waddel, an Australian lecturer.

THE log and timber production in the Philippines has increased to an unprecedented postwar high of 2,277,838.8 cubic meters during the one-year period ending April 15, 1949, enabling the country not only to meet local demands for building and reconstruction purposes but also to export a sizable quantity of sawn lumber and logs to the total amount of P4,000,000. This was the gist of a progressive report submitted during the month by the Bureau of Forestry to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

ASSISTANT Executive Secretary Nicanor Roxas on May 3 was designated Acting Mayor of Quezon City by President Quirino to replace the late Mayor Ponciano Bernardo who met a tragic death on April 28. Roxas was sworn in the next day by Speaker Eugenio Perez in the latter's office before a group of Malacañan and Quezon City officials. On the same day, the President appointed Luis Montilla as director of the Bureau of Public Libraries to succeed the late Director Eulogio B. Rodriguez. Until his promotion, Montilla was assistant director of the same bureau.

THE death of John H. Dickinson, Charge d'Affaires of the British Legation in Manila, on May 3 occasioned messages of condolence from high ranking Philippine officials, notably President Quirino who issued the following statement: "I am shocked and grieved to learn of the tragic death of John Herbert Dickinson . . . an able and experienced public servant . . . a sincere and warm-hearted friend . . . To the great Government which he had so capably represented and to Mrs. Dickinson, I offer my most sincere and heart-felt sympathy and condolence."

DIFFERENT services undertaken by the Bureau of Mines during the one-year period ending April 15, 1949, have enabled the mining industry in the country to turn out a total output of P33,055,200 for the period, the highest since liberation, according to a progress report submitted on May 4 by the Bureau to Malacañan, through the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

GROUNDWORK for the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations was laid during a Cabinet meeting in the Mansion House on May 4 with the appointment of the Executive Committee which will handle the necessary preparations for the July 4th anniversary fete. Headed by Secretary Ricardo Nepomuceno of Public Works and Communications as Chairman, the Committee appointed by the President is composed of several Department Secretaries, ranking army officials and other well-known public and private personalities.

UPON the recommendation of the Cabinet, President Quirino issued a proclamation on May 4 declaring the 15th day of May of each year as Jose Abad Santos Day to honor the memory of the late jurist who died a martyr and hero at the hands of the enemy during the occupation.

A VACCINE found to be effective in combating avian pest, the most dangerous and destructive disease of poultry, is now being manufactured at the laboratories of the Bureau of Animal Industry, it was announced by the Bureau in a report to Malacañan through the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Produced at very low cost, a vial of this vaccine which is sufficient to vaccinate as many as 2,000 head of fowl, is being sold at only 55 centavos, the report stated.

THE Conference of Governors and City Mayors opened on May 5 in Baguio with a total of 177 delegates from the various provinces and cities in attendance. President Quirino delivered two addresses during the Convention, the first on the opening day, and the second in response to the resolutions of confidence and loyalty to his leadership jointly passed by the Executive and National Committees of the Liberal Party and the members in convention.

In both addresses, the President enjoined the body to concentrate on the prosecution of the administration's economic development program, which he described as the ultimate solution to all of the country's key problems.

Several resolutions were approved during the two-day Convention, among them the declaration of vacancy of the Party's presidential and secretarial posts and the subsequent election of Speaker Eugenio Perez and Acting Quezon City Mayor. Nicanor Roxas, respectively, thereto; placing on record the condolence of the Party on the death of Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon and her companions; paying homage to the memory of the late President Roxas; authorizing the Executive Committee to draft a new platform for the Party for submittal to the National Convention; setting the date and place of the National Convention; and separate resolutions endorsing the candidacies of Mayor Manuel Rojas of Cavite City for congressman, and those of Governors Manuel Cuenco of Cebu and Jose U. del Gallego of Camarines Sur, and Acting Quezon City Mayor Nicanor Roxas, for senator.

The Convention also went on record as opposed to the proposed merger of the Constabulary with the Army. The Convention adjourned on May 6 at 6 p. m.

“PRESIDENT Quezon's social justice program had been Aurora A. Quezon's inspiration and passion. It was she who had touched and softened his heart and made him champion the cause of the masses, the underprivileged, the underfed.” Thus declared President Quirino in the course of his necrological speech at the Malacañan Social Hall on the occasion of the memorial services held for Mrs. Quezon in the evening of May 8 under the auspices of the Philippine National Red Cross of which she was Chairman. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS* for complete texts of this and other speeches of the President during the month.)

BUDGET Commissioner Pio Joven gave assurances on May 10 that the P22,000,000 Deficiency Appropriation Bill pending in Congress will not affect the balanced figures of the budget for the 1950 fiscal year. The Commissioner made the statement in view of press accounts that the new deficiency measure might throw next year's budget off balance.

THE Cabinet on May 10 approved four health measures to be submitted to Congress as administration bills. Recommended by Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama, the bills involve the appropriation of P6,500,000 for the maintenance and operation of provincial hospitals, maternity houses, emergency hospitals and other health establishments, particularly in the provinces.

THE sum of P45,000 was released by the President on May 10 in order to enable the Institute of Nutrition to pursue its experiment on vitamin-enriched rice for the prevention of beri-beri. The appropriation represents expenses for the purchase of 30,000 kilos of “premix” rice which, when mixed with ordinary white rice at a ratio of one to every 200 parts of ordinary rice, has been found to contain sufficient vitamin B-1 and other elements that prevent beri-beri.

TO clarify certain reports which erroneously reported the President as having exercised his emergency powers to protect Chinese elements in the city, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista issued a statement on May 10

denying the issuance of any executive order by the President affecting Chinese stallholders in Manila public markets. On the contrary, Evangelista said, when the President was informed that certain Chinese were granted licences after the effectivity of the law limiting the lease of such stalls to Filipino citizens, the Chief Executive instructed Mayor Manuel de la Fuente to investigate the matter and to make certain that no violation of the law is countenanced.

FISHERMEN in the bay towns of Laguna will be extended loans by the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) as soon as the survey of the need of the region is completed. The PACSA has voted to allocate the amount of P10,000 for this purpose. It is also seeking technical advice and assistance for the replenishment of the shell supply in the Laguna waters as a means of helping rehabilitate the duck industry.

THE Philippine War Damage Commission can authorize the construction of new barrio school buildings on sites other than those formerly occupied by old barrio school buildings which were destroyed during the war. This was gathered on May 11 from War Damage Commissioner Francisco Delgado after he had seen President Quirino on the matter. As a result of this new ruling of the Commission, it is expected that the construction of many barrio school buildings will soon get underway.

THREE important documents, one a Treaty, the other a Convention, and the third a Protocol, were submitted on May 12 by Undersecretary Felino Neri to the Senate for concurrence. The first document is the Treaty on Academic Degrees and the Exercise of Professions between the Republic of the Philippines and the Spanish State which was concluded and signed at Manila on March 4, 1949, the second deals on the International Load-Lines Convention which was signed at London on July 5, 1930, while the third provides the limitation in the manufacture of and regulating the distribution of narcotic drugs.

ADULT education among the people of Mt. Province will get a boost from the PACSA with the approval of P10,000 for the opening of school classes for adult illiterates in the province. Preparation for the organization of the classes is now being undertaken.

AN appeal for cooperation with the Administration's social amelioration program was sounded by President Quirino to the members of the Philippine Medical Association who called on him on May 12. The *medicos* were headed by Drs. Daniel Ledesma and Rodolfo P. Gonzales. The President on the same day received Lt. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, Commanding Officer of the U. S. Far East Air Force, who was accompanied by Charge d'Affaires Thomas Lockett and Brig. Gen. Jarred V. Crabb, Commanding General of the 18th Fighter Wing, Clark Air Force Base. During the brief interview, the President was understood to have exchanged impressions with the FEAF head on the Far East aspects of the international situation, especially with regard to the U. S. program for its air forces in the Orient.

TYPHOONS, volcanic eruptions, artificial rain, and many facts, or near-facts about Philippine weather, came up in the course of a lively interchange of impressions between President Quirino and a delegation of weather experts who called on him on May 12. The group was composed of 22 local and foreign weather experts who were in Manila for a conference.

PRESIDENT Sean T. O'Connell of the Republic of Ireland sent a message to President Quirino on May 13 expressing appreciation of the people of Ireland for the "cordial greetings and good wishes" sent by President Quirino in behalf of the people of the Philippines on the occasion of the independence of Ireland.

THE President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration will participate in the UNICEF feeding program for children, it was announced by the PACSA on May 13. The UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) is undertaking a program in the feeding of needy children and expectant and nursing mothers in the Philippines.

THE Philippine delegation to the International Labor Conference slated for June 8, 1949, in Geneva, was named on May 13 during a Cabinet meeting. Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina was appointed head of the local

participation. Proposed to compose the local group were former Secretary of Labor Pedro Magsalin, CIR Judge Juan L. Lanting, Dean Conrado Benitez and Jose Muaña of the NACTU.

THE expansion of teacher-training and the shifting of emphasis in the educational system to meet the requirements of the economic and industrial program of the administration, characterized the proposed measures approved by the Cabinet on May 13. A list of 11 bills was considered on the basis of legislation recommended by the Joint Congressional Committee on Education, but only five were approved by the Cabinet for action in the last Congressional session. The six others, while approved in principle by the Cabinet, are scheduled for later consideration by Congress because they carry new appropriations. The latter group will be recommended when funds are available.

FOUR Administration measures which have been certified by the President as urgent legislation were transmitted to Congress on May 14. These measures, designed to grant fair compensation to minor employees, especially in the provinces and municipalities, include (1) an Act amending section 2187 of the Administrative Code by graduating the compensation of vice-mayors and councilors; (2) an Act amending Sec. 2218 of the Administrative Code in order to allow compensation to barrio lieutenants; (3) an Act to amend Sec. 2097 of the Administrative Code to fix the compensation of the elective members of the provincial board at per basis according to class of province; and (4) an Act to fix the salaries of provincial governors, provincial treasurers, provincial auditors and others.

“PERSONALLY, I am with you. Officially, I am more.” With this statement, President Quirino brought down the house as he addressed over 1,000 delegates to the national convention of the Confederation of Filipino Veterans at the Social Hall in Malacañan on May 14. The occasion was the courtesy call paid on the President by the newly-elected officers and members of the CONVETS on the second and concluding day of their convention in Manila. The President, in his talk to the veterans, pledged himself to do something for the survivors of the last war, to ameliorate their condition.

THE President’s seventh monthly radio chat went on the air in the evening of May 15 which he has proclaimed as Jose Abad Santos Day in honor of the great jurist who died a hero and martyr at the hands of the enemy.

THE President’s Action Committee on Social Amelioration announced on May 16 that five feeding centers in Bataan and Tarlac have been opened by the PACSA in connection with the feeding program for children and nursing and expectant mothers being undertaken by the UNICEF (United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund). About 1,200 children in these centers will be given supplementary milk food under the supervision of PACSA social workers.

DR. Rufino Luna, Philippine representative to the United Nations Commission on Korea, emplaned for Seoul May 16 to participate in the next deliberation of that body. Dr. Luna, it was understood, left with fresh instructions from the Department of Foreign Affairs on the Philippine position in regard to various items on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting.

MISS Vicky Quirino, daughter of the President and official Malacañan hostess, celebrated her 18th birthday on May 18 by placing flowers on the grave of her mother at the Manila South Cemetery. Earlier in the day, she remembered the disabled and ailing veterans at the V. Luna General Hospital by sending them a big cake and a batch of flowers. She started the day by hearing mass at the Palace chapel.

AN Act to promote “industrial peace” was among the measures certified to by the President as urgent for enactment by Congress. Five other proposed measures were certified to as urgent at the special Cabinet meeting on May 18. The labor legislation, which was recommended by Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina, represents a collection of progressive labor ideas considered suitable to peculiar labor conditions here.

PRESIDENT QUIRINO signed two bills on May 18 immediately after they were brought to him for signature. These bills were (1) an Act to amend Sec. 2 of Republic Act No. 62, and (2) an Act to legalize permission to use portions of the body for medical, surgical or scientific purposes under certain circumstances.

IMPLEMENTING decisions made during previous Cabinet meetings, President Quirino signed two Administrative Orders on May 19, the first creating a Board to take charge of listing deserving guerilla organizations not yet recognized, and the second creating a Committee to evaluate the existing property under the custody and administration of the Surplus Property Commission and to study the terms for its turnover to private syndicate. The President also issued a Proclamation establishing the "Aurora Memorial Park" on the Bongabon-Baler road in honor of the late Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon.

ANOTHER set of urgent measures was certified to by the President on May 19 for enactment by Congress before adjournment. Of the 26 bills certified during the day, four had to do with veterans and guerilla affairs. The Congressional Reapportionment Bill and an Act to create a Commission on Industrial Safety were also among the major measures given the "urgent" stamp.

FOLLOWING American delegate Gen. Frank McCoy's announcement before the Far Eastern Commission (FEC) meeting about the reversal of American policy on interim reparations payments to Allied countries, including the Philippines, President Quirino, in a statement on May 20, said "the effect of the United States declaration on Japanese reparations is that now there is neither a policy nor a program of reparations upon which the Allied powers are agreed." He expressed the "grave alarm which the people and the government of the Philippines feel over this reversal of United States policy on Japan."

NORMAN Thomas Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Australia, was received by President Quirino on May 22 at Malacañan. The Australian visitor was accompanied by five members of his party, namely, Msgr. James Freeman, Msgr. James Carroll, Msgr. Edward O'Donnell, Msgr. M. Cronin, and the Rev. Fr. H. Kennedy, and ranking members of the local laity.

AMID simple but impressive ceremonies, Myron M. Cowen, new American Ambassador to the Philippines, formally presented his credentials to President Quirino on May 23 at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan. The important diplomatic event was witnessed by high ranking government officials, including members of the Cabinet, staffs of the Executive Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the staff of the American Embassy headed by Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. Lockett.

EXPRESSIONS of goodwill and understanding were exchanged between President Quirino and Dr. Alexander A. Maramis, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who called at Malacañan on May 24, to pay his respects and to convey "the fraternal and neighborly greetings of President Soekarno of Indonesia and of its people." During the call, the President and the Indonesian minister were also understood to have informally discussed the request of the Indonesian government for a 2,000,000-peso loan from the Philippines in the form of surplus goods ranging from textiles and medicine to transportation and communication equipment.

THE Council of State, during its session on May 24, concurred in the views of the President in favor of "a cooling off" period of several days before deciding on the advisability of calling a special session. The Council also: (1) preliminarily exchanged views on the bills passed in the last Congressional session preparatory to the President's action thereon, and (2) approved the membership of the Philippine delegation to the Second World Health Assembly scheduled to be held in Rome beginning June 13.

THE President, in a speech on May 25 during the second biennial convention of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines at the Philippine Women's University, lauded the girl scout movement in the country and urged its members to act as representatives of the Government in the prosecution of the Administration's social amelioration program in their respective localities.

PHILIPPINE Consul General Mariano Ezpeleta has been authorized by the Department of Foreign Affairs to extend small financial loans to Filipino nationals in Shanghai, it was announced by the Foreign Office on May 25. The loans are intended to help relieve the plight of Filipinos in Shanghai most of whom were either rendered jobless or have been living in misery during the long siege of the city by the Communists.

MANGYANS in Mindoro have “rediscovered” the government with the coming of the PACSA to them. This was reported on May 25 by Lilia de Leon, PACSA social worker who had been sent there to extend relief and look into the conditions of the Mangyans. Meanwhile, the PACSA announced that plow pools will be set up in every municipality in agricultural provinces starting June in order to aid indigent farmers. The plows will be provided by the PRATRA.

THE Cabinet on May 27 authorized the Central Bank to release to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation the amount of P35,000,000 for immediate economic development projects. This amount was earmarked for investment during 1949 out of the P200,000,000 economic development fund now in the possession of the Central Bank. The Cabinet emphasized that part of this fund should also be made available to private persons engaged in small business who, in the opinion of the Cabinet, are deserving of financial assistance from the Government.

PRESIDENT Quirino on May 27 issued instructions to the Philippine National Bank to start carrying out the Administration’s long-term financial assistance program for the rehabilitation of private abaca plantations in Mindanao and other areas.

THE recommendation of the Philippine Shipping Administration to sell nine FS-vessels with Buda engines was approved by the Cabinet on May 27. It also granted special authority to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D. C., to start negotiations for the purchase of aircraft engine spare parts from the U. S. Government through the War Assets Administration.

A 10-POINT program designed to curb the indiscriminate possession of firearms was adopted on May 27 by the Special Committee named by the President to study this problem. President Quirino, who presided over the deliberations of the Committee, summarized the significant points brought up by the various elements represented in the Committee after listening to their views on the matter. The 10-point program adopted by the Committee calls for an intensified check-up of all kinds of firearms, both licensed and unlicensed.

DONALD Rue Olson, 15-year-old newspaper carrier of the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, conveyed to President Quirino greetings to the Philippines from Governor Luther W. Youngdahl of Minnesota immediately after the young visitor’s arrival here on May 27. Olson presented to the President a centennial coin from Governor Youngdahl bearing the inscription “The Great Seal of Minnesota—1849.” He also delivered a copy of the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* to the President who, in turn, presented him with a miniature Philippine flag with a nickel-plated base.

Olson was selected from among 8,000 *Star and Tribune* carrier salesmen to make a round-the-world flight to deliver copies of his paper and other souvenirs from Governor Youngdahl to prominent men around the world.

THE extension of crop loans to abaca planters by Government banking institutions was announced by Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa on May 28, thus implementing President Quirino’s previous instructions to the Philippine National Bank to carry out the Administration’s long-term financing assistance program for the rehabilitation of abaca plantations.

HOLDERS of circulating notes of the Bank of the Philippine Islands will soon be able to convert these into negotiable cash. This was announced by Malacañan on May 28 immediately after the Cabinet approved the recommendation of Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa to authorize the Treasurer of the Philippines to redeem all the BPI notes which have been registered and deposited in the Bureau of the Treasury or with the provincial, city and municipal treasurers, under Executive Order No. 166, series of 1948.

PRESIDENT Quirino, before a crowd of 7,000 at the inauguration of the official Liberal Party headquarters on Azcarraga-Legarda on May 28, made a bid for popular support and, consequently, his re-election on the basis of his total economic mobilization program. Stating that the salvation of the country lies in economics and not in politics, the President emphasized that the real issue at the moment is not politics but internal economic development.

THE dispute between Senator Tomas Confesor and Congressman Cornelio T. Villareal of Capiz as to who was the proper Commonwealth authority in the province during the enemy occupation has been resolved by the Cabinet in

favor of Congressman Villareal, Malacañan indicated on May 29. As a result of this ruling, Congressman Villareal will be recognized as the legal officer authorized to certify the officers and employees of the free local civil government entitled to receive backpay under Republic Act No. 304.

SPEAKING at the joint Philippine-American Memorial Day celebration on May 30 at the grounds of the United States Embassy, President Quirino sounded an appeal to the United States to keep faith with her heroic dead by opposing the "rising doctrine of violence" in order that liberty and justice may be preserved for all mankind. Speaking on the same occasion, American Ambassador Myron M. Cowen expressed in similarly glowing terms the American people's admiration for their "brave, loyal and devoted" Filipino allies who fought not only for the Philippines and America but also for all freedom-loving peoples of the world.

THE National Economic Council on May 30 approved the release of the sum of P220,000 for the prosecution of various NACOCO projects calculated to boost the coconut industry.

FOOD remains the major problem in the troubled provinces. There has been substantial improvement in the peace and order campaign in Central Luzon, with the exception of Nueva Ecija. There is need for closer cooperation among the armed forces and the civilian population. These were the points noted during the two-day conference of the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration (PACSA) held on May 30-31, which was called in order to review the conditions in the provinces and map out plans of activities to meet the situation.

"ARDENT wishes for the traditional and unperishable friendship" between the Philippines and Cuba were extended to President Quirino by Carlos Prio Socarras, President of the Republic of Cuba, in a radiogram received in Malacañan on May 31. The radiogram was in answer to one sent earlier in the week by President Quirino to the Cuban president on the occasion of the anniversary of Cuban independence.

THE Philippine Legation in Nanking, fallen Nationalist capital, successfully established the first contact with the Home Office on May 31 after complete silence of over five weeks since the Communists took over the city on April 23. The message came from Charge d'Affaires Manuel Adeva in Nanking who said that officials of the Legation as well as other diplomatic officials "have not been unduly molested."

THE granting of additional death benefits and educational privileges to Philippine war veterans is reported sought in two resolutions recently presented in the United States Congress, according to a wire received by the Department of Foreign Affairs on May 31 from Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde. These resolutions were introduced by Reps. Harold Patten of Arizona and Walter Huber of Ohio, both Democrats.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1949). The Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(5), 1964-1970.

President's Month in Review: June, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

IN a conference with editors, reporters and foreign correspondents on June 1, President Quirino issued an appeal to the press for "fair, just and sober" appraisal of the local situation in order to give a true picture of conditions in the country, especially to the outside world. The President said public attention should be centered more on the economic development of the country than on petty political bickerings. On the same day, President Quirino told representatives of the Indian Overseas Bank, Ltd., who called on him, that foreigners are welcome to invest here provided they observe the rules and regulations of the country.

AT the Cabinet meeting on June 2, the recommendation of the National Economic Council to lift the ban on the export of lumber was approved. The NEC made the recommendation on the ground that such a measure would assist in the rehabilitation of the lumber industry and stabilize operating conditions without affecting local reconstruction needs.

ADDRESSING a 100-woman delegation from the Filipina Voters' Union who called on him in Malacañan on June 2, President Quirino commended the women leaders of the country, for their civic interest in the affairs of government, assuring them, at the same time, that his administration has their welfare at heart.

THE Philippine National Bank, through Malacañan, announced on June 2 that it was already granting short-term loans to abaca planters, in accordance with a previous directive by President Quirino. The procedure followed in the granting of these short-term loans, it was indicated, was patterned after that recommended to the National Economic Council by the special committee headed by Pablo Lorenzo which visited Mindanao recently and made a thorough survey of the actual conditions of the abaca industry in that area.

TWO important appointments were announced by Malacañan on June 3 ; namely that of Filemon A. Cosio as Acting Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry, and of Major Victor H. Dizon of the Philippine Air Corps as Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Undersecretary Cosio remains as Securities and Exchange Commissioner pending the appointment of a permanent, Undersecretary, while Major Dizon replaced Major P. C. Cabangbang, resigned.

FINANCE Secretary Pio Pedrosa, in a speech before the First Regional Conference of the National Association of Bank Auditors and Comptrollers of the Philippines on June 3 at the PNB building, enjoined bank officials to take cognizance of the important role banks are expected to play in the prosecution of the country's economic program. He emphasized that local banks have a two-fold responsibility; first, to be solvent and sufficiently liquid at all times; and secondly, to invest their resources not merely with an eye to maximum profits but also with an eye to the long-run interests of the country, with human values not overlooked in the process.

"THIS is just the beginning of what I intend to do for the veterans." Thus declared President Quirino on June 4 after affixing his signature to House Bill No. 2800 appropriating the additional sum of ₱10,000 to enable the Philippine Veterans Board to continue operation of the "Bill of Rights for Veterans." The Chief Executive also revealed that a number of other bills affecting war veterans in general, which he had certified to as urgent, are pending Congressional approval, including the bill, on the redemption of guerrilla currency for which a total appropriation of ₱40,000,000 is required.

THE total economic mobilization program of the Government made another forward stride on June 4 when President Quirino signed. House Bill No. 2833 authorizing the President to negotiate loans with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on behalf of the National Power Corporation. Under this Act, the Government can borrow from the International Bank a sum not exceeding ₱100,000,000 which will be used in the promotion of the country's economy.

UNANNOUNCED, the President emplaned aboard the *Laong Laan* Sunday, June 5, for Baguio. While in the mountain capital, he devoted most of his time to studying the bills passed by Congress during the closing day of the

session. He also received the Baguio directorate of the liberal Party and a delegation of the Baguio Jaycees. He flew back to Manila two days after in time to preside over the Cabinet meeting.

A FORMAL agreement between the Philippine and United States government to implement and give effect to the provisions of the Rogers Act, was signed on June 7 at the Council of State room in Malacañan by President Quirino and U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen. An important proviso of the agreement, in substance, provides for the hospitalization of Filipino veterans to begin officially on July 1, 1949, subject to the approval of the U. S. Congress of the necessary appropriation legislation.

THE Foreign Office announced on June 7 that additional reparations equipment from Japan are forthcoming to the Philippines under the advanced transfer program, following a decision by SCAP headquarters in Tokyo to virtually “exempt” all Jap reparations assets already allocated under the interim plan from the U. S. May 12 directive halting further reparations withdrawals from Japan.

IN order to prevent the re-exportation of goods coming to the Philippines under allocation by foreign countries and by the International Emergency Food Council, President Quirino on June 4 issued Executive Order No. 220 amending a previous order which originally banned only the re-exportation of goods coming from the United States.

A CTING on the President’s instructions to stamp out illegal fishing, Secretary Placido Mapa of Agriculture and Natural Resources on June 7 issued Fisheries Administrative Order No. 24 which, according to him, would make illegal fishing not only Unprofitable but also subject offenders to heavy fine and/or imprisonment and confiscation of their fishing boat and other paraphernalia.

THE Cabinet on June 7 accepted the invitation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to send representatives to the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of that body scheduled for September 30, 1949, in Washington, D. C. The Cabinet designated Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde as Governor to represent the Philippines in the confab, with Minister Emilio Abello as alternate. The Cabinet also approved a proposal of the Baguio City Council to remedy the slum problem in that city by transferring a government reservation aggregating 107,246 square meters originally reserved for the Philippine Military Academy to the Baguio City Government. The entire area will be converted into a workingmen’s village where squatters on several government lots will be accommodated.

A CTING on the recommendation of Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, the Cabinet on June 8 approved the release of the necessary funds for the general elections on November 8, 1949. The Cabinet took this measure because Congress did not act on the bill providing for an appropriation of ₱5,000,000 for the national elections.

THE Philippines will participate in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the capital city of the United States, Washington, D. C. This was decided by the Cabinet on June 8 following invitation to the affair from U. S. Charge d’Affaires Thomas H. Lockett. The Cabinet also authorized the departure of two pensionados for specialized training abroad; namely, Mrs. Candida P. Bautista and Ector R. Eason. The former will pursue studies in music education, while the latter will take up advanced studies in fishery technology.

NEW measures calculated to swing the Koronadal settlements into full production gear, were announced On June 8 by Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of the National Land Settlement Administration. The NLSA scheme includes (1) the purchase of 20 tractors; (2) the purchase of about 200 carabaos from French Indo-China; (3) the sending of five groups of survey parties to Koronadal to hasten the granting of Torrens titles to qualified settlers; (4) coordination of production work with the rice and corn projects of the NDC; (5) release of ₱10,000 and ₱5,000, respectively, for the Norala and Monopoloc irrigation projects; and (6) the release of funds to keep salaries of field workers up to date.

VETERANS, victimized by forgers, got a break from President Quirino who, on June 8, directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to issue new backpay checks to about 266 veteran claimants “who should not be made to suffer for no fault of theirs while responsibility for the illegal encashment of the checks is being determined.” The issuance of these new checks, amounting to about ₱409,745.79, was recommended to the President by the Cabinet to replace

those lost or paid to the wrong parties by the Philippine National Bank, without prejudice to the determination of the liability of either the PNE or the AFP with respect to each particular loss.

TAKING cognizance of several complaints to the effect that certain PC men were resorting to “inquisitorial” practices against the civilian population in Nueva Ecija and other neighboring provinces, President Quirino on June 8 issued instructions to Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos, Chief of the Constabulary, to take stern measures to curb the alleged abuses. Such abuses, if true, the President declared, must never be tolerated.

PRESIDENT Quirino on June 9 signed five bills passed by both Houses of Congress during the last session, including Senate Bill No. 311 (Republic Act No. 360), exempting from taxation all the benefits accruing to any person under the laws of the United States administered by the United States Veterans Administration. Other bills signed were: House Bill No. 2249 (Republic Act No. 361), amending section 190 of the Internal Revenue Code so as to exempt from payment of the compensating tax vessels, their equipment and/or appurtenances purchased or received from without the Philippines; House Bill No. 2611 (Republic Act No. 362), appropriating ₱300,000 for the study, control and eradication of the *kadang-kadang* and other diseases or pests of coconut trees; House Bill No. 2810 (Republic Act No. 363), authorizing all vocational schools to collect tuition, fees, receive contributions from private persons, and contract loans from Government or private banks and other financial institutions; and another bill, now Republic Act No. 364, which grants the same privileges as those granted in Republic Act No. 363 to all existing national and provincial schools of arts and trades, agricultural schools, and other vocational schools.

Late in the evening, two more bills became laws, Republic Acts Nos. 365 and 366, both amending the Charter of the City of Iloilo.

ON June 10, before a large delegation of guerrilla leaders and public officials, President Quirino affixed his signature to three more bills, viz., Republic Act No. 367, creating the Bureau of Industrial Safety; Republic Act No. 368, fixing the salaries of provincial governors, provincial treasurers, provincial auditors, district health officers and provincial assessors; and Republic Act No. 369, providing for the redemption of emergency and guerrilla currency notes registered and deposited under the provisions of Republic Act No. 22.

THE Cabinet on June 10 approved Philippine participation in two international conferences, the fourth annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington on September 30, 1949, and the Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. The Cabinet also approved Philippine participation in the United Nations. Food and Agriculture Organization conference scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Siam.

JOSE Agudo, 59, Acting General Manager of the NACOCO, died of heart disease on June 9 at the UST hospital. He was one time provincial treasurer of Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental.

THE Liberal Party, in its Convention on June 12 at the Santa Ana Recreation Hall, unanimously nominated President Quirino as its standard bearer in the coming national elections. The President was the lone nominee. He was nominated by Cebu’s Manuel Cuenco, President of the League of Governors and City Mayors of the Philippines. The nomination was seconded by Senator Tomas Cabili, Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina and Congressmen Juan V. Borra of Iloilo and Hemenegildo Atienza of Manila. Nominations for the Vice-Presidency were put off for a later date, while over 50 names were submitted for Senatorial berths.

The afternoon of the same day, the President told a group of Philippine Revolution veterans at Kawit, Cavite, on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence, that, the time calls for an “economic revolution.” The President said the people of the Philippines should renew “our symbolic feeling for the patriotism of the men who fought and died in 1898.” He ended his speech by reading a prepared text in Tagalog. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the text of the President’s speech in Tagalog.*)

PEDRO M. Gimenez was sworn in as Deputy Auditor General by President Quirino on June 13 before a large crowd composed of delegations from Cavite and the General Auditing Office. Gimenez succeeded Pio Joven who is now Budget Commissioner.

THE National Economic Council on June 18 took a positive step in the execution of the program for the development of the hemp industry in Davao by approving the first phase of the three-year plan of the NAFCO, calculated eventually to bring 10,000 hectares under full cultivation. The plan involves a 12-month program for clearing and planting some 2,500 hectares of the 10,000 hectares formerly owned by the Japanese. The whole project requires a total outlay of ₱2,500,000.

AS a measure designed to mobilize the country's idle manpower for food production and to give the landless opportunity to attain economic security, President Quirino on June 15 signed Executive Order No. 223 authorizing the allotment of vacant agricultural lands of the public domain to interested citizens desiring to cultivate them for the production of foodstuffs. Citizens taking advantage of this Executive Order will have option permanently to own the land they cultivate either on a ten-year easy installment plan or by homestead.

PHILIPPINE Scouts recently disbanded from the U. S. Army are now given priority second only to the veterans of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the matter of public works jobs. Announcement to this effect was made by the President before a big delegation of ex-Scouts who called on him on June 14.

AS an implementation, of Executive Order No. 223, President Quirino on June 15 authorized the release of ₱100,000 to be used in the purchase and distribution of palay seeds to small, deserving farmers. Small farmers wishing to take advantage of this seed loan may contact supervisors of the Department of Agriculture in the provinces, or may apply directly with the Department of Agriculture.

IN a brief and simple Ceremony, President Quirino on June 15 administered the oath of office to ranking educators of the country who were named to the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters. The President expressed satisfaction over the choice of the members of the Commission, saying that they constitute the bulk of intelligent men and women of the country upon whose shoulders have fallen a great mission.

EXERCISING the authority vested in him by the Emergency. Powers Act, President Quirino issued two executive Orders on June 15, namely: (1) Executive Order No. 225, "appropriating funds for the operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines during the period from July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950"; and (2) Executive Order No. 226, "appropriating the sum of six million pesos to defray the expenses, in connection with, and incidental to, the holding of the national elections to be held on the second Tuesday of November, 1949."

On the same day, the Chief Executive signed a total of 12 bills, outstanding among which was House Bill No. 1748 (Republic Act No. 372), appropriating ₱2,000,000 for the rehabilitation of stock farms, breeding stations and breeding centers.

THE President delivered his eighth monthly radio chat on June 15 from his private office in Malacañan. Delving into the political situation of the day, with particular emphasis on the forthcoming national elections, he called upon the people to make intelligent appraisal of the political issues being presented to them. "It is the security and freedom with which the people can make this appraisal that constitutes the very core and substance of our democratic heritage," he declared. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the text of the President's radio chat.*)

MAJOR Manuel E. Buenafe was appointed Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Census and Statistics by President Quirino on June 16. Until his new designation, Buenafe was Chief of the Census and Publications Division of the same Bureau. Malacañan also announced other minor appointments on the same date, as follows: Jose Nieva as Officer-in-Charge of the NACOCO, vice Jose Agudo, deceased; Pablo Lorenzo as Acting Chairman of the NACOCO Board in the absence of Dean Conrado Benitez; and Felipe Euencaraino, Jr., as Acting Chairman of the NLSA Board in the absence of Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina.

PRESIDENT Quirino on June 17 vetoed the bill creating a Typhoon Commission and affixed his signature to four others, including Senate Bill No. 269 (Republic Act No. 382), regulating the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery in the Philippines. The three other bills approved by the President were: House Bill No. 1013 (Rep. Act No. 383), amending section 2176 of the Revised Administrative Code of 1917, as amended, so as to allow vice-mayors

when not acting as mayors, or councilors when not attending sessions of the council, to accept employment in national or provincial public works near which they reside; House Bill No. 2202 (Rep. Act No. 384), amending the fifth paragraph of article 365 of the Revised Penal Code (re imposition of the penalties), so as to allow the courts "to exercise their sound discretion without regard to the rules prescribed in article 64"; and House Bill No. 2711 (Rep. Act No. 385), extending authority to certain officials of the U. S. Government, or any agency thereof, to aid claimants for benefits granted by the United States in the preparation and presentation of their claims.

THE Cabinet on June 17 approved in principle the recommendation of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo urging the Philippine Government to award a decoration to Secretary General Trygve Lie of the United Nations. The Cabinet also approved the request of the National Executive Board of the Philippine Government Employees' Association that the delegates to the annual convention of this organization be allowed official time.

FRENCH Minister and Mrs. Gaston Willoquet were honored by President Quirino at a dinner in Malacañan on June 17. The French diplomat left for France the day following to Report to the Home Office preparatory to resigning from the service. The guest list, aside from the host, the honorees, and the President's daughter, Miss Vicky Quirino, included foreign diplomats and high ranking Philippine Government officials.

PRESIDENT Quirino on June 17 increased the membership of the Guerrilla Screening Board from seven to nine. The two new members are Col. Ferdinand Marcos and the Rev. Melanio Raymundo. The President also appointed Francisco Alfonso Acting Member of the Board of Directors of the NACOCO, vice Casimiro Garcia, deceased.

AT a brief ceremony in the Malacañan Ceremonial Hall on June 17, President Quirino formally received the Argentine envoy, Minister Eleodoro Antenor Vieyra, as Minister Extraordinary and Envoy Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina to the Philippines. The ceremony, witnessed by Malacañan and Department of Foreign Affairs officials, forged the first diplomatic link between the Philippines and a South American Republic.

SUPREME Court Justice Manuel Briones paid a "goodwill call" on President Quirino on June 18. Justice Briones, Vice-Presidential candidate of the Nacionalista Party, called on the Chief Executive to tender his resignation from the bench formally and also "to assure the President that the coming campaign will be carried on a high level of sportsmanship and fair play." The President responded with assurances of goodwill and high regard.

HOUSE Bill No. 2118 (Republic Act No. 386), otherwise known as the Civil Code, was signed by President Quirino on June 18 in the presence of members of the Code Committee, high Congressional officials, and ranking women leaders of the country. "With the signing of this law, the women of the Philippines are now fully emancipated," President Quirino declared. Filling the long-felt need of codifying the scattered legislation of the country on the subject, the new Civil Code contains 427 pages and is divided into four sections under the titles, (1) Persons, ;2) Property, Ownership and Its Modifications, (3) Different Modes of Acquiring Ownership, and (4) Obligations and Contracts. Its most salient provision is the abolition of divorce, a much-debated issue.

AS of noon on June 18, President Quirino had signed 45 of the 94 bills and resolutions passed by both Houses of Congress during its last session, including two Concurrent Resolutions approved by both Houses last January. A total of 14 bills were vetoed.

IN a message specifically addressed to the youth of the country, President Quirino on June 19 urged continued adherence and loyalty to the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal and the "perpetuation of the feeling to always look to him for inspiration and guidance." The President was guest speaker in Calamba, Laguna, Rizal's hometown, on the occasion of the hero's 88th birthday anniversary celebration. Delivering, his address from a stage erected on the spot where Rizal's home was located, the President said: "Rizal must grow in us, as well as outside of us," adding that to him, "and doubtless to all Calambenos," the birthday of Rizal was more significant than his death, because "birth symbolizes growth and Dr. Rizal's death symbolizes martyrdom." Among the President's interested listeners was Dña. Trinidad Riza, the hero's only living sister.

PRESIDENT Quirino on June 20 received a delegation of youth leaders who presented to him a resolution asking that June 19 of every year be declared an official and legal holiday. They also presented two gifts to the Chief

Executive, a life-size portrait of Dr. Jose Rizal and a picture of the President. The President pinned medals on 15 youthful leaders chosen from various youth organizations by the Philippine Youth League as model youths and outstanding youth leaders.

The afternoon of the same day, the President declared that parent-teachers all over the country have greatly encouraged him in his present program of ameliorating the condition of students, teachers and other school personnel, and of pursuing his campaign for a "strong, dignified, honest and efficient government." The occasion was the awarding of a merit medal and a diploma of honor to the Chief Executive by the National Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of the Philippines, Inc.

TOURING the Cabinet meeting on June 21, the President authorized the release of ₱2,600,000 to the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation for the development of 2,500 hectares of abaca land in Davao during the next 12 months. The Cabinet also approved the request of the International Refugee Organization for a four-month extension of the stay of refugees at Guiuan and adopted the conditions under which some of these refugees may be allowed to visit Manila.

THE Philippine Foreign Office characterized the controversial *Wall Street Journal* article underlining the alleged fiasco in the United States-sponsored "little Marshall plan for the Philippines," as the "ultimate in misunderstanding of the contemporary situation in the Philippines." In his press statement on June 22, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri called the sensational disclosures as "totally incomprehensible" both from the American and Filipino viewpoints.

FOLLOWING approval of the bill revising the Charter, of the City of Manila, President Quirino on June 22 signed the appointments of Fernando Monleon, Placido Ramos and Luis Villaceran as new members of the Municipal Board of Manila, thus increasing the board membership from 10 to 12. One of the three appointees was named to fill the post vacated by former Board President Eustaquio Balagtas, now Director of Prisons.

TWO new top officials of the Province and City of Zamboanga, and a new Malacañan Technical Assistant, were sworn into office by President Quirino on June 23. Romulo E. Garrovillo, Provincial Board Member, was sworn in as Zamboanga Governor, vice Felipe Azcuna, resigned; Lt. Col. Manuel D. Jaldon, as new Mayor of Zamboanga City; and former Zamboanga City Mayor Vicente Suarez, as Malacañan Technical Assistant.

THE Philippines felicitated the Government of Thailand on June 24 on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the founding of Thailand's constitutional monarchy. In a cabled message to the Philippine Legation in Bangkok for transmission to the Thailand Foreign Minister, President Quirino reiterated the Philippines desire to "strengthen the ties of friendship and good understanding that bind our two countries together."

IT IS Holiness Pope Pius XII, imparted the Apostolic blessing to the People of the Philippines in a message addressed to President Quirino on June 24. The Pontiff sent his "pledge of divine favors and testimony of our fatherly benevolence" in reply to the President's message on the 11th anniversary of the Pope's Pontificate.

PRELIMINARY discussions on the advisability of sending a diplomatic representative to the Vatican were taken up during the Cabinet meeting on June 24. Views were also exchanged among the Cabinet men on the advisability of establishing a Philippine Legation in Paris which has been provided in the budget during the last two fiscal years. The naming of a new Minister to Great Britain and the establishment of a Consulate General in New Delhi, India, were also discussed.

PRESIDENT Quirino on June 24 issued an Administrative Order creating a Committee to coordinate the functions of the Capital City Planning Commission, the National Urban Planning Commission, and the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation. The Committee is composed of Ricardo Nepomuceno, Chairman; and Jorge B. Vargas, Juan M. Arellano, Bienvenido M. Gonzalez and Pio Joven, Members.

IN doing honor to the late Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon, the people of Quezon City and the whole Filipino people, for that matter, should perpetuate not only her name but also her deeds so that her dreams of social amelioration for

the great mass of her countrymen be sooner realized and its blessings enjoyed by all. Thus declared President Quirino on June 25 in connection with the ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone of the Aurora Quezon Memorial Hall at the Bernardo Park, Quezon City. Special guests of the occasion were Mrs. Zenaida Quezon-Buencamino, Manuel Quezon, Jr., and Mrs. Josefina M. Bernardo, widow of the late Quezon City Mayor Ponciano Bernardo.

THE establishment of a national shipyard at the Mariveles-Sisiman area in Bataan was approved for recommendation to the President by the National Economic Council on June 27. The project involves a total outlay of ₱16,000,000. The proposed shipyard will handle repairs, drydocking and construction of watercraft. The NEC likewise approved a five-year plan for the rehabilitation of the local tobacco industry, with the recommendation that the National Tobacco Corporation undertake the program with its own resources together with credit assistance available from the RFC and the PNB, and using as starting funds the ₱3,000,000 already appropriated for the corporation.

PRESIDENT Quirino, in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, on June 27 received from the Philippine Alien Property Administration 24 former alien properties of various categories, ranging from stocks of corporations engaged in agriculture to real and personal properties, together with improvements made on them. The aggregate total value of the properties is estimated at ₱793,420.75. The transfer ceremonies took place in the Council of State room, with the President and Undersecretary Neri representing the Philippine Government, and U. S. Charge d'Affaires Thomas H. Lockett and PAPA Administrator James Mel Henderson representing the United States Government. No monetary consideration was involved in the transfer of the properties except the payment by the Philippines of the symbolic amount of ₱1 for each of the eight transfer agreements, or a total of ₱8.

NEWS of the election of the Philippines to the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly, was radioed on June 27 to Malacañan by Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama who is now in Rome as chief Philippine Delegate to the Second World Health Assembly. Of the 52 member nations in the WHO, only six are represented on the Board, and the Philippines has been elected to the fourth position, according to Villarama.

THE President on June 28 headed the list of guests at a luncheon given on board the USS *St. Paul* by Vice Admiral Oscar C. Badger, Commander of the U. S. Naval Forces in the Western Pacific. Traditional naval ceremonies, including two 21-gun salutes, the first rendered on the arrival and the second given following the departure of the Chief Executive, marked the colorful proceedings, the first of its kind to be witnessed in the Philippines.

CHINESE Minister Chen Chih-ping on June 29 made a half-hour call on President Quirino, during which he gave the Chief Executive an up-to-date appraisal of the situation in Free China and its possible implications on PI-Sino relations. Though no official announcement was made regarding details of the conference, it was understood the Chinese Minister gave an optimistic outlook on the Chinese situation. The President and Minister Chen were understood to have also discussed at some length the question of illegal entries of Chinese into the Philippines.

IMPLEMENTING his campaign for intensified food production, President Quirino on June 29 authorized the release of another ₱100,000 for the purchase of seeds and other planting materials. The first release of ₱100,000 was authorized from the PACSA funds, thus making a total of ₱200,000 so far released for this purpose. Intended to boost food production all over the country, the entire sum will be loaned to small farmers, payable in cash or in kind after the next harvest season.

IN line with his avowed policy of promoting efficiency and speedy action in the Administration, President Quirino on June 29 reshuffled his Cabinet, with the following officials taking their oaths on the same date that their appointments were signed: Sabino Padilla as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; Ricardo Nepomuceno as Secretary of Justice; Prospero Sanidad as Secretary of Public Works and Communications; Dr. Marciano Roque as Technical Assistant and Assistant Executive Secretary; and Nicanor Roxas as Undersecretary of the Interior.

PRESIDENT Quirino made another important appointment on June 30, that of Col. Margarito Torralba as Deputy Chief of the Constabulary, making him second in command to the PC Chief, Gen. Alberto Ramos.

A LEATHER-bound de-luxe “first edition” of Dr. Jose Rizal’s *Memorias de un Estudiante en Manila*, edited by Alberto and Tomas F. Barreto, was presented to President Quirino on June 30 by a delegation from the San Miguel Brewery, Inc., which printed the edition. Similar copies were presented to the President’s; daughter, Vicky, and his son, Tommy.

THE need of coordinating all efforts in implementing the provisions of the Rogers Act and of indoctrinating the people on the various benefits being extended to them by both the United States and Philippine Governments, was emphasized by President Quirino on June 30 before a large group of Red Cross and Veterans representatives. The occasion was the cocktail party given by the President for over 150 officials and representatives of the Philippine National Red Cross, the Philippine Veterans Board and the Legal Aid Office of the Department of Justice, who had just completed a three-day refresher course in Manila under the auspices of the U. S. Veterans Administration in the Philippines. Also present were USVA officials headed by Gen. Ralph B. Lovett.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: July, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 1 signed the final blueprints of the plans on the restoration of Dr. Jose Rizal's home in Calamba, Laguna, and the proposed memorial park in Dapitan, Zamboanga, where Rizal spent a few years in exile.

THE members of the Philippine Air Mission to Pakistan, Siam, India, Egypt, Greece and Israel to negotiate and conclude air transport agreements with these countries, were counselled by President Quirino on July 1 to conduct themselves in a manner that would win not only the friendship" but the admiration and respect as well of the countries they would visit. They were particularly admonished "not to commit the Government in controversial matters". The five-man mission, composed of Counselor Lucas Madamba, chairman, and Juan M. Arreglado, Daniel Me. Gomez, Alejandro E. Albert and Capt. Elias G. Lavadia, members, left for Pakistan the following day.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 1 designated Health Secretary Antonio Villarama as Philippine representative to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization. The Board was scheduled to meet for two weeks in Geneva, Switzerland, beginning July 8.

The Cabinet on July 1 named Filemon Rodriguez, manager of the National Power Corporation, to represent the Philippines in the forthcoming United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources. From the conference, scheduled to be held at Lake Success, New York, from August 17 to September 6, Rodriguez will proceed to Washington to present to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation the engineering data on the projects to be covered by the power loan applied for by the Philippine Government.

BUDGET Commissioner Pio Joven informed the Cabinet on July 1 that all essential services financed by the U. S. Government up to June 30, 1949 would be continued during the current fiscal year. Joven said tentative arrangements were being made to continue the services pending final determination of the sources of funds for these purposes.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 1 took up with officials of the Philippine National Red Cross his plans for the erection of a Shrine of Freedom at an appropriate site within the City of Manila to signify the "spiritual renaissance" of the Filipino people following the untold sufferings they had undergone during the occupation.

IN connection with the "land for the landless" program of the President, the Bureau of Lands on July 1 organized survey parties to carry out the Chief Executive's land distribution program. Previously, it made available to the PACSA certain parcels of land located in Negros Occidental, Cotabato and Bukidnon.

ADDRESSING a big group of Army men following a testimonial parade and review given in his honor at Camp Murphy, Quezon City, President Quirino on July 2 underscored the need of strengthening the people's confidence in the armed forces of the Government in the face of "potential threats from across the seas". He said that while there is an "apparent lull" in "centers where world hostilities are expected to burst," the threat to peace is "more serious" in the East, "in our immediate neighborhood, and in our midst where such threat is articulated in the actions and thoughts of some of our countrymen."

The President urged his audience to help in the overall effort to establish national peace and order "and a general feeling of confidence and security" among the masses by making the armed forces, a strong, respected and loyal organization.

ACTING promptly on the request of war victims and sufferers occupying public land on Quezon Boulevard and C. Lerma street, Manila, President Quirino on July 2 authorized the sale by public auction of the property to the actual occupants. This move was in line with the President's policy to render assistance to the homeless and indigent, particularly war sufferers.

Meanwhile, it was announced by the PACSA that a total of 2,800 children had received milk rations under the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund up to the end of June. Distribution was made in four provinces where feeding centers had been organized in key towns; namely, Guagua, San Simon and Sta. Ana in Pampanga; Baliuag, San Ildefonso and San Miguel in Bulacan; Tarlac, Capak and Bamban in Tarlac; and Balanga, Orion and Grani in Bataan.

IN line with the policy of the Administration to rid the Government of graft and corruption, Secretary of Public Works and Communications Prospero C. Sanidad on July 1 suspended Eriberto Villaleros, letter carrier of Bacolod City, for irregularity in the delivery of checks from the Philippine War Damage Commission and the U. S. Veterans Administration. The suspension, the first step taken by Secretary Sanidad upon his assumption of office, was recommended by Director of Posts Juan Ruiz

AMBASSADOR Carlos P. Romulo headed the list of outstanding Filipinos, including one Filipino family and two government agencies, who were each awarded by President Quirino a merit medal "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services" to the Republic. The awards, sponsored by the Women's Civic Assembly were made at a brief ceremony in Malacañan in the afternoon of July 3 as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Recipients of the award were: Ambassador Romulo, international relations; Mrs. Francisca Tirona Benitez, civic leadership; Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon (posthumous), welfare services, Miss Maria Orosa (posthumous), improvement of family living; Miss Carmen de Luna, character education of girls; Dr. Manuel Roxas, science; and Jose Braulio Sison and family, exemplary Filipino family life and relationships.

Government agencies which received merit medals were the Code Commission, for its work on social legislation, and the Court of Industrial Relations for labor-management relations. Chairman Jorge Bocobo of the Code Commission and Judge Arsenio Roldan of the CIR received the awards in behalf of their respective agencies.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 4 conveyed to President Truman the "most cordial greetings and felicitations of the Republic of the Philippines and the Filipino people. 'In the occasion of the 173rd anniversary of American independence and the "that of our own."

IN the course of his Independence Day address at the Luneta on July 4, President Quirino called attention to the Red menace in the Far East and urged peoples in the Pacific basin to rally around his proposed Pacific Union. The President's speech highlighted the July 4th celebrations at the New Luneta where over 100,000 people gathered to witness the parade and ceremonies marking the annual historic observance of Independence Day.

The President also took occasion to trace in general and broad outlines, the substantial accomplishments of the young Republic during its first three years of existence.

Philippine diplomatic and consular establishments abroad and Filipino communities throughout the world observed Independence day with traditionally fitting ceremonies. Cabled greetings and felicitations were also received by the Philippine Republic from friendly foreign nations. Later in the day, a broadcast over Radio Australia was beamed to the Philippines featuring Independence Day messages from the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers.

In the afternoon, the President spoke at the Independence Day reception at the U. S. Embassy building on Dewey Boulevard, where he and Miss Vicky Quirino were among the principal guests. Official celebration of Independence Day culminated with the traditional state dinner tendered by the President at Malacañan Palace in honor of high government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, top brass of the Armed Forces, and others.

THE Philippine Government on July 5 nominated Hilarion Beronilla, auditor of the PRATRA, to the position of auditor of the World Health Organization in New York.

THE Council of State on July 5 unanimously concurred in the President's use of his emergency powers to renew existing legislation for the continuation of essential services, the special appropriations for which failed passage in the last session of Congress. It was understood that President Quirino was prepared to sign the necessary Executive Orders for the appropriation of P33,000,000 for special public school classes and P12,000,000 for standardized teachers' pay. The President pointed out that the activities of the Government covered by emergency appropriations not covered in the general budget are essential public services which the Government cannot afford to discontinue.

ASSURANCE that the Chinese Nationalist Government is, on his advise, undertaking all possible measures "to prevent further unpleasant incidents" in connection with illegal entry of Chinese into the Philippines, was given to President Quirino by Chinese Minister Chen Chih-ping on July 6.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 7 admonished Filipino women to do honor to their sex by acquitting themselves creditably in any Government position to which they may be appointed, and reminded them that they have to show the so-called stronger sex that women can also "deliver the goods." The admonition was made after the President had sworn in Mrs. Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana as member of the Radio Broadcasting Board.

DURING the Cabinet meeting on July 8 President Quirino signed two Executive Orders continuing the appropriation of funds for Government functions and services authorized by law during the last fiscal year and authorizing new funds for essential services financed by the U. S. Government up to the end of the last fiscal year.

The first Executive Order continues the appropriation of P52,404,581.33 covering last year's special laws not included in the general budget, while the second authorizes P875,000 for certain services formerly financed by the U. S. Government, such as the Weather Bureau, the air navigation service, the public health service and the quarantine service.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 8 administer ad the oaths of office to Dr. Cecilio Putong as Undersecretary of Education, Benito Pangilinan as Director of the Bureau of Public Schools, Venancio Trinidad as Assistant Director of Public Schools, and Col. Amado N. Bautista as member of the National Economic Council.

A RESHUFFLE in the higher echelons of the foreign service was announced by the foreign office on July 8: Consul General Roberto Regala in San Francisco was ordered transferred to Australia as Consul General with the assimilated rank of Minister; Manuel Alzate, Consul General in Sydney, Australia, was shifted to Honolulu; Mariano Ezpeleta, Consul General in Shanghai, took over from Regala as Consul General in San Francisco.

CLOSE to 200,000 persons throughout the Philippines benefited from the adult education activities of the Department of Education during the school year 1948-1949, according to a report compiled by the Bureau of Public Schools and submitted to Malacañan by Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcauon on July 10. The report indicated that 109,867 adults attended regular classes in 43 provinces, while 80,969 others were taught under the so-called "each-one-teach-one method". In addition, 979 community assemblies on adult education were held in 36 provinces with a total attendance of 215,579.

AT the invitation of President Quirino, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, titular head of the Nationalist Government of China, came to the Philippines on July 10 and had a two-day conference with the President in Baguio. In a joint statement issued after a series of conferences at the Mansion House, the two Heads of State announced that, "In our discussions, we agreed that the relations between China and the Philippines should be further strengthened and that concrete and practical measures should immediately be taken by our respective Governments for the promotion of a closer economic and cultural cooperation."

The conferees also revealed that they had had a full discussion on the necessity of coordinating full development of the Far Eastern countries in order to insure the stability and security.

When informed by newsmen of the "sympathetic reaction" in Washington on the proposed Pacific Union, President Quirino said, "I am naturally happy to learn that." The President, however, added that such favorable reaction was

not surprising “because after all, the countries taking the initiative in the move to contain and counteract the advance of Communism are friends of the United States.”

ALL government collecting officers and others concerned were enjoined by the Department of Finance to accept certificates of indebtedness in payment of taxes and Government hospital bills of all applicants for backpay. An order to this effect was contained in a general circular issued by the Department on July 11. The circular said that the acceptance of such certificates of indebtedness is mandatory in view of the recent opinion rendered on the matter by the Secretary of Justice.

PRESIDENT Quirino kept a posthumous date with Dona Aurora Aragon Quezon when he flew to Baler on July 13 and unvailed the marker on the spot where his acknowledged mentor, President Manuel L. Quezon, first saw the light of day. Flying from Baguio on a surprise visit, the President told to about 1,000 hastily gathered crowd that with this visit he was able to realize a life-long dream of seeing Baler. He told the townspeople that he had already directed the erection of a memorial on the spot in keeping with the great names of “the father and mother of our country.”

Following the unveiling, the President proceeded to the new hospital where, he unveiled a tablet bearing the inscription: “Aurora General Hospital.”

THE President on July 14 told the Boy Scout delegates to the 4th World Rover Moot in Oslo, Norway, that their mission abroad as ambassadors of goodwill from the Philippines “assumes an added importance at the moment because we are feeling our way” in the latest international developments. The delegates received from the Chief Executive a 3-by-5-foot size Philippine flag to be presented to the King of Norway as a gift from the Philippine Republic.

“I WANT you to feel that your work is more or less patriotic in nature because you will not be compensated, because you will be instrumental in setting the people’s mind at rest, and because you will have to exert efforts to stow speculations in connection with the sending of unofficial veterans’ missions to the United States.” This was the statement given by President Quirino on July 14 to the members of the Guerrilla Screening Board immediately after swearing them into office.

THE basis of future trade and consular relations between the Indonesian Republic and the Philippines was laid on July 15 at a three-hour conference between Indonesian representatives and Vicente L. Pastrana, prospective Philippine Consular Designate to Jogjakarta. Diplomatic observers attached special significance to these negotiations as Indonesia is considered a vital link in the proposed Pacific Union.

PRESIDENT Quirino, delivering his ninth monthly radio chat on July 15 from his private office in Malacañan, explained the use of his emergency powers through appropriation of funds for the essential functions of government, and the purpose of his talks with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek which had evoked worldwide attention. The President dismissed the collaboration issue with a few passing remarks, saying that he agreed with many people that this issue was dead. “My wonder is why some people are so afraid of the dead,” he said, adding that he recommends “in all seriousness more caution, more coolness and more good nature in our political campaigns.”

PRIVATE Filipino investors now dominate the local, investment field, according to figures available in Malacañan on June 16 from data compiled by the National Economic Council and the Central Bank of the Philippines. The figures reveal that private capital investment has shown remarkable growth since liberation, contrary to assertions that Filipino capitalists are not actively participating in the local investment field. Of the total paid up capital amounting to P117,000,000 registered by corporations and partnerships during the period from 1946 to 1949, Filipino investors accounted for about P58,000,000, representing 49 per cent of the total.

ACCORDING to figures by the Government Enterprises Council released on July 17, the net worth of government-owned enterprises has also risen from P120,000,000 in 1946 to P355,000,000 by the end of 1948, indicating that government enterprises have contributed substantially to the increase in the national wealth. Because of this extensive industrial undertaking, it is believed that government enterprises have contributed a great deal to the

maintenance of a high level of employment within the national economy. Government enterprises are expanding their activities under the new industrial program being pursued by President Quirino, which expansion program is confined only to enterprises in which private capital has shown reluctance to enter.

MALACAÑAN on July 17 released the rules and regulations governing the appointment of reserve officers into the regular force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. These regulations, contained in Executive Order No. 242, implement Republic Act No. 207 which empowers the President to appoint and commission reserve officers into the regular force in grades above second lieutenant.

THE Philippine Air Mission headed by Lucas V. Madamba successfully negotiated the projected air transport agreement with Pakistan, according to an official report from the Mission received at the Foreign Office on July 18.

THE Cabinet on July 19 authorized the resumption of payment of salary differentials to enlisted men of recognized guerrilla organizations. The Cabinet's authorization was based on the recommendation of Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, who submitted a memorandum to the effect that the pay differentials for enlisted men of recognized guerrilla organizations is chargeable against USAFFE funds advanced by the United States Government to meet all its obligations incident to taking over of the former Philippine Army into the service of the USAFFE.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 20 led the nation in mourning the death of U. S. Justice Frank Murphy who was one of the best liked and most respected American Governors-General here. Upon learning of Justice Murphy's death, the President proclaimed a one-week period of national mourning.

IN an extemporaneous speech delivered on July 22 before more than 30,000 students and faculty members of various Manila schools, colleges and universities gathered at the Rizal Stadium on the occasion of the local celebration of World Health Day, President Quirino declared that the state of the nation is healthy but that its mental health is not always so, and suggested that something should be done at once to remedy the "moral ills" that beset the country.

MALACAÑAN on July 27 released the appointments of Undersecretary of Education Cecilio Putong as Member of the Board of Directors of the U. S. Educational Foundation of the Philippines, and of the Government Service Insurance Board; of Judge Buenaventura Ocampo as Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals only during the leave of absence of Associate Justice Fortunato Borromeo, and of Hermenegildo B. Reyes as Member of the Government Enterprises Council. Two new members were also appointed to the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission; namely, Cesar Lopez and Jose Manzano.

FOLLOWING his acceptance of the invitation extended him by the President of the United States to visit Washington at an early date, President Quirino on July 28 declared: "I know of President Truman's deep interest in the welfare of the Filipino people and I am looking forward to the opportunity of discussing with him a wide range of subjects of concern to our two countries It is my hope that the visit may serve to strengthen the friendship long felt between the United States and the Philippines."

SMALL-SALARIED government employees qualified for promotion will now receive pay boosts under a ruling laid down by the Cabinet at its meeting on July 29. Acting on the recommendation of Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, the Cabinet modified its resolution of February 1, 1949 suspending all promotions and salary increases, and exempted from the old ruling employees receiving less than P2,400 a year.

PRESIDENT Quirino on July 29 administered the oath of office to Pascual Buenaventura as Assistant Director of the Bureau of Public Libraries. He also named Judge Antonio Horrilleno as Chairman of the Labor-Management Advisory Board; vice Judge Rafael Corpus who had been appointed member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

SECRETARY of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda on July 30 said that having succeeded in restoring the 2-cent differential in favor of Philippine coconut oil in U. S. markets, the administration's next move would be to seek reversion to the Philippine treasury of excise tax collections accumulated since 1946, estimated at

P120,000,000. Secretary Balmaceda disclosed that the Truman proclamation favoring Philippine coconut oil at an estimated annual savings of P4,000,000, was issued as a result of strong representations lodged by President Quirino through the Philippine Embassy in Washington.

IN an address delivered at the commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration on July 31, President Quirino called upon the people to put their shoulders to the wheel and help the Government carry out its program of total production. "Our program of action is well defined and concrete," the President asserted. "It is based on the philosophy of total I production in order to provide our people with a life of substance and security."

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: August, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 1 was presented with a book entitled, "The Educational System of the Philippines," by its author, Benigno Aldana, local educator. Aldana said he was presenting the first copy of his book to the man "who has solved the ever-recurrent school problem and championed the cause of the Filipino teacher."

A TOTAL of P383,500 in agricultural aids in the form of palay seeds, and seedlings for root and other quick crops was given to thousands of farmers all over the country under the PACSA social amelioration program during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949. This was disclosed August 1 by Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez. Commissioner Perez said that in terms of production value, the assistance extended by the PACSA contributed hundreds of thousands of cavanes of rice to the sum total of last year's produce.

IN observance of the fifth anniversary of the death of President Manuel L. Quezon, President Quirino on August 1 laid a wreath at the foot of the Quezon tomb in the North Cemetery. He also ordered the Quezon portrait in the Palace draped in black in token of mourning for the departed leader.

THE Philippine nominations of Judge Roberto Regala as consul general to Australia and of Tagakotta Sotto as first consul to Pakistan have been formally accepted by both governments, according to separate cabled dispatches received from the two governments by the Foreign Office on August 3. On the same day, a scrap of paper in the form of a memorandum receipt effected the formal transfer of installations and facilities of the U. S. Army in Fort McKinley and Nichols Field areas to the Philippine government. Transfer ceremonies were held at the office of Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri with Lt. Col. L. T. Janda, commanding officer of Fort McKinley, receiving the formal transfer document in behalf of the U. S. government.

THE Philippines made representations with the United States government requesting for reimbursement to the Republic the amount of P29,655,467.14, representing total bonuses actually paid out to enlisted men of the Philippine Army, a Foreign Office communique indicated on August 5. In a note sent by the Foreign Office to the American embassy here, the Philippine government expressed the view that "these disbursements should be considered a proper obligation of the U. S. government." The Philippines underlined the fact that during the entire period the Philippine Army was in the service of the United States, "it was never extended a federalized status."

THE President during the cabinet meeting on August 5 appointed a special committee to investigate the petition filed by the Knights of Columbus against the prescription of Dr. Rafael Palma's controversial book, "Pride of the Malay Race" as compulsory reading in public high schools. In ordering the investigation, the President noted that a series of points were being raised by the Knights of Columbus alleging that there are "offensive statements and obnoxious passages" that should be eliminated from the book.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 5 named two new members of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines: Aurelio Periquet and Aurelio Montinola, local businessmen. He also directed Secretary of Public Works and Communications Prospero Sanidad to release P100,000 for immediate reconstruction of the Central Market in Manila, destroyed by fire early that morning. Secretary Sanidad said he would have the fund available within 24 hours.

MESSAGES of support and encouragement from private citizens all over the country poured into the President's office on the eve of his departure for the United States. Typical of such messages was one received from Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Manila physician, who wrote the President it was his "sincere hope and prayer that God may keep you and all the rest of your party safe in His hand during your trip."

NUMEROUS small Filipino contractors are now able to bid for government contracts as a result of a recent Cabinet decision to authorize the acceptance of surety bonds instead of cash as deposit with the bids, Juan J. Carlos, president of the Philippine Contractors' Association announced on August 6. Carlos hailed the Cabinet's decision as

another liberal step of the administration to enable contractors with small capital to participate in the government's reconstruction program.

ADULT education throughout the country, one of the most vital aspects of President Quirino's social amelioration program, has been given impetus by the PACSA in recent months. Vicente Garcia, chief of adult education division of the Bureau of Public Schools, in his report submitted on August 6 to the Welfare Commissioner, disclosed that some 75 classes with a total enrollment of 3,919 have been opened in Mountain Province alone. PACSA also disclosed that it is considering requests for the opening of adult education classes in La Union, Pangasinan, Bataan, Pampanga, Rizal and other provinces.

A CROWD of 20,000, largest ever gathered at the Manila International Airport, gave President Quirino a rousing sendoff when he left for the United States on August 6. Shortly before takeoff, he pleaded with his countrymen: "Please do not rock the boat while I'm away." Arriving in Guam, the first lap of the trip, in the afternoon of the same day, the President and his party were dinner guests of Admiral Charles A. Pownall, governor of Guam. The President's visit sparked anew the desire of Guamanians for independence.

AFTER a brief stopover at Wake, the presidential party arrived in Honolulu at 11.20 a. m. of August 7 (Manila time). President Quirino heard *Te Deum* sung by Father Osmundo Calip at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, held a "significant" 15-minute conference with U. S. Ambassador to China J. Leighton Stuart and Hawaii Governor Ingram Stainback, and was honored in banquets tendered by the Hawaii governor and, later, by the Philippine consulate in Hawaii. The President had to forego a 21-gun salute from territorial authorities at the request of Washington which wanted to reserve for itself first chance to accord him such honor.

AS the Philippine Air Lines flagship *Manila* landed him at San Francisco on August 8, President Quirino went down in history as the first Chief Executive of the Philippine Republic to step on American soil. City authorities and large crowd of Filipinos from San Francisco and adjoining cities, gave the President a big ovation upon landing. Preceded by police escort, he drove to a local high school where he heard special mass celebrated by Bishop Hugh Donohue. The President spent the rest of the day at residence of Marvin Wood, California oil magnate, preparing speeches before U. S. congress and at Fordham University.

Meanwhile, back in Manila, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista announced the designation of Mayor Catalino T. Landia as acting governor of Leyte vice suspended Governor Mamerto Ribo.

PRESIDENT Harry S. Truman himself headed high American officials who were on hand at the airport to give President Quirino a brand of welcome seldom accorded to visiting foreign dignitaries upon the latter's arrival in Washington on August 9. In brief exchange of speeches at the airport, Presidents Truman and Quirino pledged their respective countries to the "cause of all free men". That evening, President Truman gave a state dinner at the Carlton Hotel, in honor of President Quirino. The two Presidents sat next to each other with President Quirino on the right of the U. S. chief executive. Numerous persons from high Washington officialdom, including U. S. supreme court justices, congressional leaders, cabinet members and the president of the International Bank, attended the affair. In the toast offered to the visiting Philippine President, Mr. Truman declared:

"Gentlemen, this is an historical occasion. We have here tonight what you might call enough representation to be the whole government of the United States. I think the situation is so arranged that we can truthfully say that we are honoring the Republic of the Philippines. . . I want to offer a toast to the President of the Philippine Republic, and to wish for the complete and entire success of that great Republic."

To which President Quirino responded as follows: ". . . Mr. President, I feel highly honored to be your guest this evening. I little thought that some day I would be the honored guest of the President of the United States. . . I must say at this moment, Mr. President, that the Philippines is the esteemed and only daughter of the United States in the Far East. We are proud of that and we want to assure you we are doing our best to justify the confidence you placed in us in ushering us into the family of nations in 1946. . . we are determined to make your handiwork an example of your noble career in your world mission. . . May I offer a toast to the President of the United States who today rules

the world.”(See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full texts of the toasts offered I to each other by the two Presidents.)

President Quirino spent his first night in Washington at the Blair House, as official guest of the President of the United States. Meantime, in Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced the appointment of Judge Meynardo Farol as consul general-designate to India. Consul Farol, together with Rodolfo Severino who was also newly designated Foreign Affairs Officer, class four, took his oath of office before Undersecretary Felino Neri in the presence of high government officials, friends and well-wishers.

President Quirino on August 10 addressed both Houses of the U. S. Congress. He pledged the Philippines to fight again on the side of United States in defense of freedom, but appealed to America for a “redefinition of fundamental attitudes towards Asia.” The House gave the President prolonged applause when he recalled Philippine-American relationship; the Senate likewise gave him hearty ovation for his advocacy of a Pacific Union to counteract the spread of communism in Asia. President Quirino was enthusiastically cheered as he entered and departed both Houses. His appearance before congress was followed by a luncheon given in his honor by congressional leaders at Capitol Hill.

That evening, at a banquet tendered for President Truman at the Statler Hotel, President Quirino received assurances from the U. S. chief executive that he would not go home empty handed. President Quirino also presented Mr. Truman with a huge portrait of the U. S. president, done in oil by Fernando Amorsolo. On accepting the gift, the delighted President Truman said: “I appreciate most highly this gift and I shall treasure it all my life and give it to my daughter. I want to drink to the health of the first President of the Philippine Republic who has visited the United States of America. May he live long and happy and be prosperous as the President of the Philippines.”

Back in Manila, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista approved the release of P10,000 from the sweepstakes fund for the maintenance of a band in the National Psychopathic Hospital in connection with the treatment and care of inmates.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 11 had a round of top level conferences with high Washington officials, including Secretary of State Dean Acheson, top military brass, congressional leaders and the President of the United States. After the conferences, Presidents Quirino and Truman issued a joint statement reiterating their determination to resist “those perverted forces which would destroy the ideals to which the Philippines and the United States are dedicated.” (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the full text of the joint statement). On this day, President Quirino also gave his first press conference since his arrival in the U. S. capital. Amid the hubbub raised by movie and news cameramen, he minimized the Huk situation in the Philippines, reiterated the necessity of counteracting and containing the Red menace in the East, and deplored the apparent neglect of the United States of Oriental nations.

Meantime, in Manila, the release of P30,000 from the sweepstakes fund for the purchase of sulfone preparation (promindiasone) used in the treatment of lepers, was authorized by Secretary Teodoro Evangelista. The Foreign Office also ordered immediate evacuation from Canton and Amoy of all Philippine nationals as a “precautionary move against worsening military situation in the Chinese mainland.”

IN an unprecedented show of hospitality, President Truman, together with ranking U. S. government officials, personally saw President Quirino off at the airport when he left for New York on August 12.

New York, on the other hand, turned out 100,000 strong to give President Quirino most enthusiastic welcome in recent years. He was borne in an impressive motorcade led by 96 motorcycle cops from the airport to the City Hall where he was received by Mayor William O’Dwyer in New York tradition. Mayor O’Dwyer awarded the President a citation lauding him as “patriot, statesman, friend and defender of democracy.” In a speech at a reception tendered that night in his honor by Consul General Jose P. Melencio at the Waldorf-Astoria, President Quirino urged Filipinos not making good in the United States to return home and help develop the Philippines.

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 13 received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Fordham University. In his address before the faculty and student body, the President discussed the “spiritual imperatives,” and thanked that eminent institution for the honor conferred him. In welcoming the Philippine president, Rector Laurence McGinley of Fordham University stated, “By proposing the Pacific Pact, you dare communism when it is on the march.” (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of President’s Fordham University speech.*)

At the banquet given him at the Waldorf-Astoria by some 60 members of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce and National Foreign Trade Council, President Quirino issued a direct invitation to American capital to invest in the Philippines. He assured businessmen that their investment would be welcomed and protected although, he said, the Philippines of necessity had to continue maintaining required controls to prevent its economy from plunging into chaos. The President also attended a luncheon given in his honor by Francis Cardinal Spellman. At a press conference on the eve of his departure, he told newsmen: “I have accomplished my mission.” He further indicated that organization date of the Pacific Union depended on Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo’s completion of the ground work. A big official sendoff complete with 22 police motorcycle escorts, accompanied the Presidential party when it left New York for Los Angeles.

Meantime, in Manila, the Emergency Currency Board announced that all registered emergency and guerrilla currency notes would be redeemed by the Government not later than September 9, 1949. Malacañan also announced the appointments of Marciano S. Angeles as general manager of the Insular Sugar Refining Corporation and manager of the Pulp and Paper Mill Department of the National Development Company.

FRESH from Washington and New York where the consensus among top governmental officials point to “great success” of his trip, President Quirino received another royal welcome upon his arrival at Los Angeles on August 14. Commented Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Manila-bound with the President: “President Quirino’s trip certainly proved that Americans have a high regard for Philippine officials. No one who saw the spontaneous reception in New York along Broadway’s commercial center can doubt the love and high regard Americans have for the Philippines and her president.”

At the film capital, the President was met at the airport by Mayor Fletcher Bowron and other city dignitaries. He was introduced by Governor Earl Warren at Los Angeles County rodeo before a crowd estimated at over 70,000. He also told newsmen at a press conference it was not yet too late to save China from communism. Referring to Japanese reparations, the President emphasized to newsmen that the Philippines was not willing to accept equipment would wait and get cash.

“I have not come to the United States in vain,” declared President Quirino on August 15 in his tenth monthly radio chat beamed from San Francisco via RCA. In his speech, the President reported to the Filipino people on the “cordial and enthusiastic reception” accorded him by President Truman personally, “as no other head of state was ever received in Washington so far,” and on other public demonstrations of American hospitality which “are but fair manifestations of the high regard in which America holds her daughter Republic in the Orient.” (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for the full text of the President’s tenth monthly radio chat.*)

HUNDREDS of civic and military dignitaries honored President Quirino at reception at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, on August 16. He was also honored by the Commonwealth Club, Stanford University, and, later, feted at stag dinner at San Francisco’s famed Bohemian Club. America “must not close its backdoor,” the President declared in one of his hardest-hitting addresses at the Stanford University; he warned the U. S. that if she turns her back on the Pacific Basin the East “will be lost by default to America and the civilized world.” Before the Commonwealth Club, he pleaded to American businessmen to pay more attention to Far Eastern countries.

PRESIDENT Quirino was again accorded a rousing welcome in Honolulu when he stopped there on August 17 enroute to Manila. Some 1,500 members of Hawaii’s Filipino community turned out at the Hickam airfield, aside from political and civic leaders headed by Governor Ingram Stainback who were officially on hand to greet the presidential party. The President praised his countrymen who have helped make Hawaii prosperous, but expressed hope they would not stay too long there. Addressing later the Hawaii Legislature, he called for peaceful methods of settling problems of the Far East, citing as example the Philippine program of total economic mobilization. At a

press interview, still later, he reiterated satisfaction over U. S. mission and answered queries of newsmen ranging from the Pacific Union to the Philippine tobacco industry.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office in Manila announced that cabled instructions to evacuate to Hongkong all “non-essential” personnel of the Philippine liaison office in Canton had been sent to Delfin Garcia, legation second secretary and head of the Philippine liaison office in that city. On the same day, the Philippine government also moved along a wide front to aid the U. S. Veterans Administration, under recently enacted laws, in protecting benefits being paid by the VA to minors and incompetents. The action came when heads of government agencies agreed to issue circulars urging cooperation with the USVA to protect beneficiaries from embezzlement, misappropriation, unlawful fees and undue delays.

THE nation gave President Quirino an impressive hero’s welcome on his arrival in Manila on August 18. A huge cheering crowd estimated at 200,000 gathered at the airport and lined the entire presidential route to Malacañan to greet the President and his party. Observers considered the reception the biggest and most colorful since the late President Quezon returned from Washington with the Tydings-McDuffie Law sixteen years ago.

President Quirino was accorded complete military honors, including an aerial escort, firing of two 21-gun salutes, and a guard of honor composed of four companies of Army and Naval personnel. From the airport, the President proceeded to Manila in a two-kilometer motorcade passing between two rows of ROTC cadets numbering about 9,000 all along the route. On the way were gaily decorated arches bearing greetings of welcome. The reception closed with a *Te Deum* said at San Miguel church for the President. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President’s speech at the Manila International Airport upon his return.*)

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 19 led the nation in commemorating the 71st birthday anniversary of the late Manuel L. Quezon. The President delivered his address at 11 a. m. from a grandstand fronting the Quezon Monument in Quezon City immediately after reviewing the parade which lasted about an hour. The program at the grandstand included floral offerings at the Quezon monument flourishes from the bugle and drum corps of Our Lady of Loretto Academy girl scout troops; laying of wreaths at the foot of the Quezon monument by U. P. coeds, girl scout troops from the Centro Escolar University and the Philippine Women’s university; and invocation by the Most Rev. Mons. Rufino Santos, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Manila. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the full text of the President’s speech.*)

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 20 spurred the people to rally behind nation-wide campaign against tuberculosis. In impressive ceremony held at Malacañan reception hall, the President formally opened the 1949 anti-tuberculosis educational and fund drive, and presented to Mrs. Julia Vda. de Ortigas, president of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, his personal contribution of P1,000. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the text of President Quirino’s speech, opening the T. B. fund campaign.*) Earlier in the day, two ranking members of the judiciary were sworn into their new posts before a large group of high government officials and well-wishers. Presiding Justice Luis P. Torres of the Court of Appeals took his oath as associate justice of the Supreme Court, replacing the late Gregorio Perfecto. Justice Fernando Jugo, associate justice of the Court of Appeals, was also sworn in as presiding justice of the appellate tribunal, succeeding Justice Torres.

ADDRESSING members of the United Women Voters, Women’s Chapter of the Liberal Party in Baguio City, President Quirino on August 22 urged Filipino women in general to vote for principles and not for sex. He enjoined them to “show real appreciation of constructive and fundamental things,” referring to actual achievements of the administration and its program of economic development.

PREMIER Phibun Songgram of Thailand presented President Quirino with a gift of 50 sacks Siamese rice, as a “token gesture of the cordial relations” existing between the leaders of Thailand and the Philippines, it was announced by the Foreign Office on August 25. It was understood that the President contemplated a reciprocal gesture of goodwill in the near future.

MALACAÑAN on August 26 received word from Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde that the U. S. congress finally approved the Act providing \$12,685,000 for Philippine Veterans’ hospitals and medical aid program. Upon approval

of the Act, Ambassador Elizalde issued the following press statement in Washington: "President Truman will undoubtedly sign the bill shortly. I am confident that will be the first of many benefits that will accrue to the Philippines as a result of President Quirino's visit. Although President Quirino's stay in Washington was brief, he accomplished a great deal by virtue of unceasing activity."

MALACAÑAN on August 27 announced the approval of a PACSA request for the release of P20,000 for the purpose of initiating small industrial projects to help displaced people in troubled areas, particularly in Luzon. The allotment would be applied to the purchase of initial raw materials to be manufactured into finished products by displaced farmers and members of their families. PACSA Chairman Asuncion A. Perez pointed out that with the availability of raw materials, a great portion of the displaced population would be able to produce in their homes, sell their products, pay back cost of materials, buy new ones and still get some extra income for their prime necessities.

THE release of P20,000 from the sweepstakes funds for maintenance and operation of the Welfare Home for Women and Girls, was approved by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista on August 29. The budget called for P9,000 for food and P11,000 for operation and other expenses.

DURING the cabinet meeting on August 30, the first since the President's arrival from the United States, President Quirino authorized the opening of additional 1,500 extension classes to accommodate children still out of school throughout the country; signed Executive Order No. 259 creating a Fire Prevention Board; signed Executive Order No. 260 increasing per diems of pensionados abroad from \$5 to \$10; issued Proclamation No. 138 declaring the 24th day of October every year as United Nations Day; and signed Proclamation No. 139 making public the accession of the Philippines to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies adopted November 21, 1947.

DON Ramon Fernandez, former senator, was appointed member of the Council of State in an administrative order issued by President Quirino on August 31. Don Ramon thus became the fourth "elder statesman" not in the government service who was appointed to the President's top policy advisory board. During the cabinet meeting on the same day, President Quirino signed Executive Order No. 261 waiving progressive taxes due from certain sugar mills to facilitate their rehabilitation, issued renewed instructions to Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepomuceno to transfer prisoners of Iwahig penal colony to Davao penal colony, and directed Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido L. Mapa to have a large narra round table made, to be presented to President Truman to replace the cracked table previously presented by General Aguinaldo to the White House.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: September, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

DURING a brief Cabinet session on September 1, President Quirino signed the credentials of Minister Proceso Sebastian and Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos as delegates to the UNESCO conference in Paris. He also signed the credentials of Dr. Amando Clemente as delegate to the General Assembly of International Council of Scientific Unions to be held at Copenhagen, Denmark.

THE allocation of P471,643.37 for construction of houses for enlisted men and quarters for officers at Camp Murphy, Quezon City, was authorized by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista on September 1. The allocation had been recommended by General Mariano N. Castañeda, Army chief of staff, to improve housing conditions of enlisted men and to provide quarters for key officers whose presence within the camp is needed in cases of emergency.

TWO government officials scheduled to leave the country soon called on the President on September 1 for final instructions. They were Auditor General Manuel Agregado and Consul-General Meynardo Farol. Agregado was flying to the United States where he would start work on "routinary examinations" of accounts of Philippine embassies, legations and consulates in North America, South America and in Europe. Farol was leaving for Calcutta, India to assume his post as consul-general in that city.

ACTING by authority of the President, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista on September 3, approved the release of P30,000 for clinical research in the Department of Health, and P10,000 as aid to the White Cross in its campaign for prevention of tuberculosis among children. Both funds would come from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes fund. Separate allotments totaling P12,000 for special educational purposes were also authorized by Secretary Evangelista on the same day. One item allotted P2,500 to the Bureau of Public Schools for printing of instructional materials for adult education classes, while another item authorized P10,000 to cover expenses for opening and maintenance of adult education classes in Pangasinan. Both items would be taken from appropriations of the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration.

JUDGE Buenaventura Ocampo of the Manila court of first instance took his oath of office before President Quirino on September 3 as associate justice of the Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Justice Luis P. Torres to the Supreme Court after the death of Justice Gregorio Perfecto. Aurelio Montinola, local businessman, was also sworn in as member of the UP board of regents for a seven-year term.

A CLOSE-DOOR conference lasting more than an hour was held on September 5 between President Quirino and U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Rear Admiral Francis P. Old, (commander of U. S. naval forces in the Philippines), Maj. Gen. Jonathan Anderson (JUSMAG chief here), Carroll M. Terry (first secretary of the U. S. embassy) and Commanded L. E. Rogers (staff legal officer of COMNAVPHIL). No announcements were made after the conference.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 6 granted conditional pardon to two American prisoners confined at the Iwahig penal colony. The prisoners were Ray Leonard Hensley and Robert Pittman, both of whom were involved in the daylight robbery of a house belonging to Ernest Berg on June 3, 1947 and were sentenced to an imprisonment of from 2 years 4 months and 1 day to 6 years and 1 day. Pardon was granted by the President on condition that the prisoners would voluntarily leave the Philippines and never to return to this country.

JOSE E. ROMERO, newly appointed minister to London, took his oath of office before President Quirino on September 6. Romero took over the post vacated by Don Ramon Fernandez who is now member of the Council of State. Meanwhile, on the same day, the cabinet authorized the release of P1,000,000 for flood control projects, including the improvement of drainage in Manila. Release of the fund was recommended by the director of public works to minimize destruction of valuable agricultural lands and crops, public works and private properties.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 7 accepted for the Philippine government a check for P1,000,000 transferred to him by James Mcl. Henderson, Philippine Alien Property Administrator of the U.S., representing part of the proceeds of former Japanese properties here sold by the PAPA. It was indicated that this was the first time cash had been transferred to the Philippine government since the Philippine Property Act of 1946 took effect. The transfer was said to have been made possible by express authority of President Truman.

THE Secretary of Finance is vested with authority to annul examinations given by the board of examiners for marine officers if he is convinced that anomalies had been committed in the conduct of said examinations. This in effect was the opinion rendered by the Secretary of Justice on September 8. The question arose when the Secretary of Finance received information of the leakage of questions in examinations given by the board of examiners for marine officers last January 31.

THE following appointments were announced by Malacañan on September 8: Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, reappointed chairman of the board of directors of the National Tobacco Corporation for another term of five years expiring August 28, 1954; former Senator Ramon J. Fernandez as member of the board of directors of the National Airports Corporation for another term of 4 years; and Francisco Batacan as acting vice-mayor of Quezon City.

PRESIDENT Quirino commenced his campaign for reelection in the November election when he boarded the steamer *Argus* on September 8 and embarked on a hectic 15-day barnstorming tour of the Visayas and Mindanao. Among those with the presidential party were Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcauon, Social Welfare Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez, Senators Tomas Cabili and Enrique Magalona, and Generals Mariano Castañeda and Alberto Ramos. They were to be joined later in the course of the tour by Acting Senate President Mariano J. Cuenco, Senator Fernando Lopez and Representative Quintin Paredes.

PRESIDENT Quirino declared that if the United States should be unable to extend recognition to deserving but still unrecognized guerrillas, he would seek all possible Philippine government assistance for these guerrillas in recognition of their war sacrifices. The President made this statement at a mass rally in Tagbilaran, Bohol, specially directed to delegations representing Bolo guerrillas and their women's auxiliary services who were among thousands who welcomed the presidential party September 10. President Quirino appealed for unity and urged the people to disregard regionalism, saying that after all, the people of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao are all Filipinos. He also enumerated some of the accomplishments of his administration such as the industrial development program designed to make the Philippines economically independent in a few years, salary increases recently granted school teachers, the organization of the Guerrilla Screening Board in his efforts to induce U. S. recognition of still unrecognized guerrillas and extended benefits obtained for Filipino war veterans under the G. I. bill of rights.

PRESIDENT Quirino was accorded a rousing welcome upon his arrival in Surigao, Surigao on September 11 after an overnight voyage from Tagbilaran. He was met by thousands of people at the wharf led by ranking provincial and municipal officials, including Governor Vicente Pimentel and Representative Ricardo Navarro. Speaking before an estimated crowd of 10,000 people at the town plaza later, the President pledged to continue his campaign for clean and upright government, to pursue his total economic mobilization program to insure the stability and security of the nation, and to further develop friendly relations with other countries specially with the United States.

SPEAKING at a mass rally in Mambajao, Misamis Oriental on September 12, President Quirino elicited wild ovation when he announced that he would seek government assistance for Mambajao and nearby Camiguin island, such as the construction of a wharf, a dike for protection against future eruptions of Mount Hibok-Hibok, and the completion of the Camiguin road. The President also outlined the industrialization program of his administration and explained the important role which the province of Oriental Misamis and the rest of Mindanao, would play in the economic development of the country.

Meanwhile, back in Manila, Malacañan announced the issuance of two executive orders effecting court-martial procedures in the Army and Constabulary. Executive Order No. 263 prescribes the procedure for the review of court-martial cases in the PC, while Executive Order No. 264 enlarges the scope under which courts-martial in the

armed forces may be appointed. (*For details, see Executive Orders, Proclamations and Administrative Orders by the President.*)

PRESIDENT Quirino disclosed that Cotabato will be the center of economic development of Mindanao and that it will eventually serve not only as the granary but also the hub of the country's industrialization program. The disclosure was made at a big rally held at Cotabato, Cotabato on September 13. The President appealed to the people and local leaders to lay aside partisan rivalries and solicited their cooperation which, he said, he needed badly to carry out his program of mobilizing the full resources of the country.

FROM Cotabato, the President and his party flew to Davao where they were likewise accorded a colorful reception, complete with fireworks and motorcade. Welcomers included Congressmen Apolinar Cabigon and Fundador Villafuerte, Governor Ricardo Miranda and Mayor Bernardo Teves. After a mass rally at Quezon Park, President Quirino attended a ball tendered in his honor at the Mindanao Colleges. He stayed at the ball for two hours and took advantage of the occasion to express his appreciation for the warm hospitality given him and his party during their brief stay there.

THE presidential plane *Laong Laan* bearing President Quirino and his party landed at Zamboanga City on September 14. On hand at the airport to welcome them were various delegations, including those headed by Mayor Jaldon of Zamboanga and Mayor Nicasio Valderrosa of nearby Basilan City. The President was borne in an impressive motorcade direct to the gates of the Immaculate Conception church where he heard a *Te Deum* officiated by Bishop Del Rosario. From the church, President Quirino proceeded to the Lantaka Flats where thousands of people awaited him before a gaily decorated grandstand.

Meantime, back in Manila, Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut declared that night that the few remaining dissident elements in the country are "tools of international communism which is dedicated to the overthrow by force of our established order." Secretary Baluyut made this declaration in a radio talk over station DZFM opening the first of a series of reports to the people by members of the cabinet.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 15 paused from his grueling speaking schedules in the course of his barnstorming tour of the southern provinces and detoured to Dapitan, Zamboanga to pay tribute to Dr. Jose Rizal. Speaking at the town plaza, the President reviewed the life of the hero and martyr, quoting extensively from some of his writings. The presidential party viewed several historic markers in the town where Rizal spent his last years. They had a chance to talk with ex-Governor Jose Aseniero who was one of Rizal's pupils. President Quirino also viewed a plaque at the municipal building with the inscription: "I am determined to do all that I can in behalf of this town. . . . I have not the slightest objection to staying always in this district." This is a quotation from one of Rizal's letters datelined at Dapitan in 1893.

PRESIDENT Quirino said on September 15 in the course of his eleventh monthly radio chat delivered in Dipolog, Zamboanga that the urgent question before the country today is "the fulfillment of a definite economic program to raise our people's living standard." Warning that the people must develop the country before Communism makes inroads here, the President said: "We must decide whether we are ready to develop our natural resources before we forfeit them to some aggressive and ruthless neighbor." He called attention to the vast potentialities of Mindanao awaiting development, and added, "From the lonely but immeasurably rich spaces of this southern land it is opportune to remind our people of our greatest challenge and opportunity for self-help as the basis of our lasting contentment and security as a people." The speech was recorded for rebroadcast over all Manila stations. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President's eleventh radio chat.*)

REACTING sharply to charges reportedly hurled at him by Dr. Jose P. Laurel at a rally in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental the night before, during which the occupation president was said to have called President Quirino a "racketeer," President Quirino on September 16 described the Laurel blast as "unfair and destructive criticism." He was visibly irked to the point of saying that the wartime record of Laurel would be looked into for possible prosecution. The President thus implied that Laurel engaged in anomalous transactions involving government funds. Defending himself from the opposition's charges of dishonesty, President Quirino cited as proof that he has not enriched himself in office, the fact that he does not own a single inch of land registered either in his own or in

anybody else's name. The President spoke before a large crowd at Quezon Park in Dumaguete on the same platform where Laurel and his party held a mass meeting the night before.

TEACHING is not only a profession but also an apostleship because it is entrusted with the sacred task of preparing the youth for peaceful and constructive citizenship, declared President Quirino before some 4,500 school teachers at a convention held at Hobs athletic field at Bacolod, Negros Occidental on September 17. "If teachers are justly compensated," the President asserted, "they should be receiving a minimum salary of P200 a month, which is their dream." President Quirino was interrupted several times during his speech by enthusiastic cheers of the audience.

ON the afternoon of the same day, Iloilo City gave President Quirino a welcome which local residents described as the biggest reception ever seen in that city. Despite inclement weather, this native city of the Liberal Party vice-presidential candidate turned out with a spectacular air, sea and land reception for the President and his party. The party was greeted off the harbor with fireworks, and with sirens and whistles blowing. Planes dropped welcome leaflets from the air. Boatloads of welcomers met the party at the harbor. The rally held at Plazolita Gay that night was considered the best attended political meeting so far in that city. Thousands of enthusiastic people filled the place to capacity despite inclement weather. The President paused several times during his speech to view spectacular fireworks display, showing his picture and the words: "Welcome President Quirino," followed by, "Vote for the Quirino Liberal Party." Among local officials who spoke at the gathering were Governor Mariano Peñaflores and Mayor Vicente Ybiernas.

MEANWHILE, back in Manila, Malacañan announced that Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista had authorized the purchase by the Department of Foreign Affairs of 50 sacks refined sugar to be given as a gift to Premier Phibun Songgram of Thailand in reciprocation of the latter's gift previously presented to President Quirino consisting of 50 sacks of rice. The announcement added that the refined sugar would be purchased from the PRATRA.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 17 spent the whole day conducting a spirited stumping tour covering ten Iloilo towns; namely, Pavia, Sta. Barbara, Cabatuan, Janiway, Mina, Pototan, Dingle, Dueñas, Dumangas and Jaro. Facing a heavy schedule, the President started the day with an early mass at the Jaro church after which he inaugurated the Quirino-Lopez bridge which connects Iloilo City and Lapuslapus. He also attended the blessing of a maternity hospital at La Paz. At 10:30 that night, the President motored to the town of Dingle to lay the cornerstone of the seven-million-peso Jalaud river irrigation system and at the same time to keep his promise to Dingle folks that he would visit their town.

SECRETARY of Finance Pio Pedrosa stated on September 19 that the Philippines, in the face of many economic difficulties, remains one of the few happy and prosperous places in the world today, and that the administration is taking the safe and sane course to strengthen the country's economy. Secretary Pedrosa made the statement in the course of his talk over station DZFM as the second speaker in the "Cabinet Reports" series. The program is aired every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p. m. over DZFM to familiarize the people with government activities. The Secretary outlined the steps being taken by the administration as follows: firstly, expansion and intensification of production; secondly, conservation of the country's dollar reserves through rigid import control; and, thirdly, improvement of the tax collection machinery.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 19 was heartily cheered by the people of San Jose, Antique when he announced the release of P60,000 for the completion of Antique's capitol building. The presidential party had arrived in San Jose in the afternoon after an overland motor trip from Iloilo. Along the way, the party had made brief stops at Oton, Guimbal and Miagao where the President had brief, heart-to-heart talks with town folks.

THE presidential party arrived at Capiz, Capiz on September 20 for a campaign tour of the home province of his predecessor, the late President Manuel Roxas. With the party were Senators Fernando Lopez, Enrique T. Magalona and Tomas Cabili; Congressmen Ramon Arnaldo, Cornelio T. Villareal, Jose Reyes and Lorenzo Sumulong and Governor Ludovico Hidrosollo. Throughout his talks in Capiz, the President paid tribute to the late President Manuel Roxas "who laid the foundations of the Republic and who has inspired the present administration to carry out his program of reconstruction."

SPEAKING at a rally in Kalibo, Capiz on September 21, President Quirino hailed the election of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as president of the General Assembly of the United Nations, describing it as "one more feather added to the cap of the Filipino nation." The President recalled that the Philippines, as a result of the efforts of the administration, "has gained the esteem, respect and admiration of other countries."

In Manila, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri issued the following statement regarding the elevation of Ambassador Romulo to the presidency of the United Nations: "The election of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as President of the United Nations general assembly is an indication of the increasing importance of the role the Philippines has assumed in international affairs and reflects the decided shift of the world's attention to Asia and the Far East in the solution of the multifarious and complex problems besetting the world today . . ."

PRESIDENT Quirino's message congratulating Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo upon his election as President of the UN general assembly was released by Malacañan on September 22. Expressing his heartiest personal congratulations and that of the Filipino people, the President in his message said that "our increasing responsibility in our international relations makes us all the more determined to be worthy of world confidence." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President's message.)

DURING the Cabinet meeting on September 24, President Quirino directed the NARIC to reduce the price of rice to P0.90 per ganta. The President issued this instruction to Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda in the latter's capacity as member of the board of the NARIC. The move was in line with the standing policy of the administration to continue to seek means of pulling down the price of rice. The President said the new price was to take effect immediately.

AT a mass rally held in San Fernando, Pampanga on September 25, in the course of a two-day campaign tour in Central Luzon, President Quirino declared that the question of recognition of still unrecognized guerrillas is not a closed matter. He said he has had the personal assurance of President Truman that the question will be left open until the Guerrilla Screening Board named by him (Quirino) shall have submitted its report for consideration by the United States congress.

AMBASSADOR Joaquin M. Elizalde advised President Quirino on September 29 that the U. S. congress had passed the Foreign Military Arms Program which includes an item for military assistance to the Philippines. The Act appropriates \$1,314,010,000 for military assistance and although the actual allocation by countries had not as yet been determined, Washington experts estimate that the Philippines would likely receive anywhere from P10,000,000 to P20,000,000 worth of military assistance. Ambassador Elizalde said that the provision in the Act benefiting the Philippines was another tangible result of President Quirino's visit to Washington.

PRESIDENT Quirino on September 30 issued Proclamations Nos. 146 and 147 designating the 12th day of June of every year as Flag Day, and the first week of December of every year as Family Week, respectively. The annual observance of Flag Day which used to fall on the last Sunday of May was moved to June 12 to coincide with the anniversary of the first Philippine Republic when the Filipino tricolor was formally proclaimed as the national political symbol. Flag Day was designated primarily to instill in the minds and hearts of the citizenry greater honor, respect and reverence for the flag. Family Week was proclaimed to arouse family consciousness in the Filipino home with a view to strengthening the national foundation.

PRESIDENT Quirino directed Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut during the Cabinet meeting September 30 to instruct all provincial and local officials to take added precautionary measures to assure clean and honest elections. The President told Secretary Baluyut he is eager to have the cooperation of all government agencies concerned to see to it that "no incidents are permitted which might cause some doubts as to the legitimacy of our expected victory."

On the same day, the President formally commissioned two brand new mobile health clinics of the PACSA in connection with the health aspect of his social amelioration program. The mobile clinics, painted bright blue, were recently acquired by the PACSA to augment its services in rural districts. With these additional units, the PACSA has now six complete ambulances fully equipped with essential medicines and staff of physicians and nurses.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: October 29, 1949

Enroute to Manila on the yacht Apo after a three-day stumping tour of Eastern Visayas, President Quirino early in the morning of October 29 paid a surprise visit on the little sleepy coastal town of San Pascual on Burias Island. Accompanied by only his aides, the President landed at the town wharf just when the people were getting up from their beds. The wharf was deserted except for three children loitering along the beach. One bright kid, recognizing the President, dashed to town and notified town officials. The mayor who was shaving at the time, cut his lip when he heard of the President's arrival.

President's Month in Review: November, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

MALACAÑAN received November 1 a letter from the Samar Teachers and Employees League at Guiuan, Samar expressing the "hearty gratitude" of its members for the administration's approval of higher scale of salaries for teachers. Miss Pilar Ayllon, secretary of the league, who; sent the letter signed by members of the league, commented that "this is the first time in the history of the public school system that teachers' salaries were greatly improved beyond expectation."

ALL-OUT relief for the; typhoon-stricken victims of Cebu, Negros Occidental and other affected areas in the Visayas was ordered rushed by President Quirino on November 2. With the Philippine National Red Cross, PRATRA, Philippine Air Force, Social Welfare Commission and other agencies collaborating, medical and social welfare personnel, and some 9,000 pounds of medical and food supplies were immediately transported aboard two PAF planes to Cebu and Negros Occidental. Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista announced that relief goods would continue to pour into all typhoon-stricken areas until requirements of sufferers would be met.

CLARIFYING reports in some sections of the press to the effect that Weather Bureau officials might; face a probe due to alleged neglect in issuing advance warning of the disastrous: typhoon that hit Cebu, Director Casimiro del Rosario reported to Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista November 3 that the WB issued out a warning ten hours ahead. Dr. Del Rosario explained that the practice of his bureau is to give typhoon warnings 24 hours in advance. Due however to the peculiarities of the storm that hit the Visayas, he said, WB officials were able to give the warning only ten hours ahead. Incidentally, this particular typhoon left in its wake a toll of no less than 585 persons dead or missing, destroyed some 30,650 houses and rendered 194,519 homeless, according to consolidated report issued by the Philippine National Red Cross.

AT a cocktail party tendered in Malacañan in honor of visiting American newspapermen, President Quirino November 3 underscored the importance of the forthcoming elections, alleging that the next four years will be a most critical period for the Philippines. With the country in the process of recovery, he said, the time calls for solution of economic problems. The President outlined the economic program of his administration designed to raise the living standards of the people. "It will be for the next President to carry out this program of economic mobilization," the President stated. "If our people make a mistake in their choice, all our plans to raise the country from its prostration will be set to naught."

A RESOLUTION of gratitude from peasants of Sta. Ana, Pampanga was presented to President Quirino November 4 for the recent purchase by the Government of hacienda Sta. Maria for eventual distribution to tenants. Consisting of 358 hectares, some 2,000 peasants in the towns of Sta. Ana, San Luis and Mexico, Pampanga stood to benefit by the deal. The property was formerly owned by the Lizarraga Hermanos.

THE troubles and ills besetting the country today are not the sufferings of a dying country but rather the travails attending the birth of a free and happy nation, President Quirino declared in an address before more than 6,000 officers and men of the ROTC units gathered at the New Luneta November 6. The President voiced confidence that the youth of the land will be ready to repeat the same sacrifice and show the same, if not a greater measure of loyalty as they have in the past, should the need again arises.

IN a radio broadcast to the nation on the eve of election day, President Quirino urged the people to go to the polls and exercise their rights "to express your sovereign will." Pointing out that the following day would be the first presidential election of the three-year old Republic, the President said that that election was a test of the political maturity and the moral fiber of the people. "You will make a crucial decision in our national life . . . its consequences will affect generations after us," the President declared in his address. He enjoined the people to go to the polls and vote, regardless of whom they vote for.

THE following day, election day, President Quirino's message to the people reads in part as follows: "Today we go to the polls. I am confident that you will exercise your right to vote not so much because I expect you to vote for me

and my fellow candidates in the Liberal Party, as because we must all be on record as having expressed our sovereign will.” [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for the full text of the President’s message.] The President cast his vote at Precinct No. 593 in San Miguel, Manila, exactly 11:17 a.m. on November 8. He voted straight Liberal. Said he as he dropped his ballot into the box: “This is the winning ballot!”

PRESIDENT Quirino expressed deep sympathy and great loss in the death of Mayor Roman Perez of Batangas, Batangas in a telegram to the deceased’s wife November 10. Mayor Perez and his brother died at the Philippine General Hospital from gunshot wounds inflicted by unidentified gunmen in Batangas on November 8. Incidentally, Mayor Perez was known to have been campaigning for the Liberal Party. The President, in his telegram, said that the untimely end of Mayor Perez was a great blow to him personally, the Liberal Party and to the people, adding that he felt stronger and more determined to serve his people because of the loyalty and sacrifice of such comrades in public service as the late mayor.

DURING the Cabinet meeting November 11, President Quirino authorized the allocation of ₱250,000 for the immediate relief of typhoon victims in the Visayas. The President directed Commissioner of the Budget Pio Joven to release the amount immediately; he also directed Commissioner of Social Welfare Asuncion Perez to collaborate with the Philippine National Red Cross and other government relief agencies in bringing succor to the typhoon-stricken areas.

PRESIDENT Quirino November 12 received a number of unscheduled official and personal callers, including John Sayre, chairman of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, who was stopping in Manila enroute to India to attend the International Pacifist Conference scheduled for December. Sayre is the brother of the former high commissioner to the Philippines, Francis B. Sayre.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs November 13 received a telegram from the Philippine consulate-general in San Francisco saying that the consulate and Filipino communities in that city will observe President Quirino’s birthday with a banquet and ball and a program to be rebroadcast by short wave to the Philippines beginning 10 p.m., November 16, San Francisco time (about 2 pan. Manila time).

IN his first post-election press conference at Malacañan on November 14, President Quirino declared the most pressing problems of the Government today were, first, the reorganization of its finances and, second, the execution of its total economic mobilization program to put the country on its economic feet. The conference which lasted ninety-five minutes was attended by editors, publishers, press association representatives and reporters covering Malacañan. The President asked the cooperation of the press in familiarizing the people with the administration’s program. The Government is not financially bankrupt, he declared, but efforts will be made to bolster public revenue through a better system of tax collection and, if this is not enough, he added, through further taxation.

VARIOUS provincial delegations including one from Iloilo headed by Vice-President elect Fernando Lopez called on the President November 14. When asked to comment on the elections, Mr. Lopez declared: “I am very happy that the people have voted overwhelmingly for the continuation of the administration of President Quirino, and I hope that everybody, forgetting party lines, will support the administration’s constructive program. As Vice-President, I will exert all efforts to help in the execution of the President’s policies.”

PRESIDENT Quirino, on the eve of his birthday, appealed for creative cooperation and unity among the people so that they may better rededicate their energies to the common task of nation building. He interpreted the results of the election as a fresh mandate of the people to continue with his programs of total economic mobilization and more extensive social amelioration. The Chief Executive spoke to the nation in his regular monthly radio chat on a nationwide hookup at 7 o’clock p.m. on November 15 from his study at Malacañan Palace.

PRESIDENT Quirino November 16 observed his 59th birthday simply and quietly, breaking the traditional pomp and fanfare which had characterized birthdays of Presidents in the past. Together with immediate members of his family and close friends, the President heard an early mass at the Malacañan chapel, then boarded his yacht to spend the rest of the day quietly off Manila bay. However, Commissioner of Social Welfare Asuncion A. Perez distributed gifts to indigent children in connection with the President’s birthday anniversary. These gifts which consisted mostly

of clothing, candies and fruits were distributed to children of the following institutions: Tala Leprosarium, The White Cross, Boys Town, Abierta's House of Friendship, Welfareville Institution, Orthopedic Children's War Hospital, Convent of the Good Shepherd, Hospicio de San Jose. Settlement House, Welfare House for Women and Girls, Asilo de Leoban, and Saint Anthony's Institution. Secretary of Health Antonio Villarama also announced that special meals were served to all free ward patients in government hospitals.

MESSAGES of congratulations from friendly peoples throughout the world continued to pour in Malacañan as President Quirino's victory in the November elections became evident. Such messages were received from Premier Georges Bidault of France, U. S. Senator Millard Tydings, Secretary General Trygve Lie of the United Nations, Prince Waithayakon of Siam, Governor Earl Warren of California, Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City, Ambassador Tsiang of China, Ambassador Nyun of Burma, President Henry E. North of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, President George Killon of the American President Lines and Ambassador Austin. Francis Cardinal Spellman's message which was among the first received in Malacañan reads as follows: "Heartfelt congratulations, prayerful wishes, affectionate regards," to which the President replied: "Your prayers have been heeded. Am very grateful for your kind personal interest in my public career and for your continued concern in my country's future." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for texts of other messages.]

NO attempts to curtail freedom of the press in the Philippines will be tolerated, declared President Quirino on November 17 when a news item was brought to his attention reporting that the *Pioneer Press* of Cebu City had been forced to suspend publication through alleged intimidation presumably by pro-administration elements. The President showed deep concern and ordered immediate verification of the report. Wiring from Cebu, Senate President Pro-Tempore M. Jesus Cuenco informed the President that the news report was "completely false and malicious." Senator Cuenco said that; the Pioneer Press had consistently been anti-administration since 1946 but that it had never been molested. "The Pioneer Press has been steadfastly losing since last year," the senator explained in his telegram, and added the dissolution of the firm was precipitated because some of the partners were openly opposed to the policies pursued by the newspaper.

ALL possible economy measures to strengthen the financial position of the government was ordered taken by President Quirino during the Cabinet meeting November 18. Convening the Cabinet aboard the yacht *Apo*, the President suggested two steps immediately taken in this direction, namely: to suspend all pending projects or activities that are neither urgent nor necessary without, however, hampering public service; and to suspend further appointments of government personnel until after a thorough study is made as to the actual needs for such additional personnel. In the course of exchange of views on government finances, both Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven informed the President that the ordinary government expenditures to date fall within the authorized appropriations and that reports of deficits probably were based on the fact that revenue collections this fiscal year were falling behind original estimates.

SENATOR Thelma A. Akana, lone woman solon in the Hawaiian legislature and vice-president of the Hawaii Senate, paid a courtesy call on President Quirino on November 19. One of Hawaii's most popular figure and one of the Filipino's staunchest friends abroad, Senator Akana arrived in Manila the day before on a goodwill visit here. She was met at the Manila international airport by ranking foreign affairs officials.

Meanwhile, on the same day, President Quirino issued an executive order extending up to December 31, 1949 the effectivity of the previous order restricting the carrying of firearms. The first order issued on October 31 was scheduled to expire November 20. Under the order, private persons granted special permits or licenses are prohibited from carrying their arms outside their residences. Merchants and other persons who, in the course of their business or official duties, need to carry firearms for protection are, however, permitted to carry their arms upon special permit obtained from the nearest Constabulary headquarters.

PRESIDENT Quirino received U. S. Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder who arrived in Manila from Tokyo on November 20 in the course of a survey of conditions in the Far East. The visiting American official was met at the airport by top Philippine finance officials, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri, Mrs. Myron M. Cowen and Evett D. Hester of the American embassy. President Quirino on the same day also received Loy Wesley Henderson, U. S. ambassador to India and minister to the Kingdom of Nepal. Ambassador Henderson was enroute to New Delhi and was staying here in Manila for a brief stopover.

JOHN W. Snyder, visiting U. S. Secretary of the Treasury, conferred with President Quirino at Malacañan on November 21 and discussed financial and economic matters of common interest to the Philippines and the United States. The discussions which lasted for two hours was described as congenial. Also present at the conference were U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido Mapa, Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, First Secretary Eugene Clay of the American embassy and Alexander Lipsman, U. S. Treasury attache.

RESULTS of the elections in the Philippines were generally well received among business and financial circles in London, according to advices from the Philippine Legation in that city. The London *Times*, considered the most influential British newspaper, devoted an editorial on the Philippine elections and noted that this country enjoys an “exceptionally high” standard of living compared with other countries in this part of the world. The *Times* also commented that in the matter of law and order, the Philippines has had a “better record since the war than most countries in Eastern Asia.”

Meantime, during the Cabinet meeting on November 22 President Quirino again directed Secretary of the Interior Sotero Baluyut to prosecute as soon as possible all cases of violations of law during the last elections, regardless of political affiliations of persons involved. The President reminded Secretary Baluyut of his standing order to investigate all complaints and “to take stern measures against culprits.”

AT the weekly press conference in Malacañan, President Quirino on November 23 described the Batangas “uprising” as serious and as part of a plot to overthrow the government. Replying to queries from newsmen, the President declared: “It looks as if some people in Batangas have been previously informed that at a certain date, there was going to be a general uprising. They expected that one day Malacañan and all other government offices will be in the possession of dissidents and that very day these people who believe there was an uprising just struck. That is the only reason why some people in Batangas were inquiring from persons who go there whether Malacañan is still standing.”

To a query on whether the rebels were Huks, the Chief Executive replied: “I cannot report on that but I was informed previously that some people who were going to be taken to court for the murder of the mayor of Batangas were with them. I don’t know if those men wanted to go to the mountains to escape prosecution or are bandit elements or had more serious ulterior motives than escaping prosecution for murder.” The President however gave assurance that government forces were of sufficient strength to meet any emergency.

TWO rare and original pieces of art, one an oil portrait of Don Miguel Morayta by Juan Luna, and the second a pencil sketch on the same subject by Dr. Jose Rizal, were presented to President Quirino on November 24 by Nicanor Carag, Philippine consul to Spain. Both articles, done in 1885 in Spain, were donated by the late Dona Antonia Morayta, daughter of the late Don Miguel, to the Philippine Government through Consul Carag and Dr. Jose Bantug of the Philippine consulate in Spain.

Don Miguel Morayta, the subject of both works, was a Spanish statesman during the 19th century, and was known to have been a very good personal friend of Rizal and sympathizer of the Filipinos during the Spanish regime.

THE foreign office announced that President Quirino, during the Cabinet meeting November 25 granted a request from several Chinese businessmen in Hongkong for permission to enter the Philippines to survey investment fields here. In accordance with the President’s decision, representatives of the Chinese investors will be issued temporary visas to enable them to enter the country and undertake a survey tour. Their investments, however, will be limited to purely “industrial fields,” the announcement further added.

PRESIDENT Quirino on November 25 received Felicisimo Ampon, Filipino tennis king, who had just returned from a six-month playing tour of the United States and Europe. The President greeted the “Mighty Mite” warmly as the Philippines tennis ambassador who has done a splendid goodwill job for his country. “We are very proud of you,” the President told Ampon, “and I hope you will continue to keep up the good name you have earned for your country.”

SECRETARY of the Interior Sotero Baluyut reported to the President on November 25 that he had renewed his standing instructions to the constabulary to extend all possible protection to civilians in the Province of Batangas and to assist evacuees from the scene of military operations. In his instructions, Baluyut also emphasized that care must be exercised to remove innocent civilians in the trouble area so that they may be spared from possible injury in the course of the PC operations.

TAKING another step intended to expedite action on violations of the law during the last elections, President Quirino during the Cabinet meeting November 25 directed Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepomuceno to assign a staff of special prosecutors charged with full-time duties to investigate and prosecute all charges of anomalies committed in connection with the last elections. Secretary Nepomuceno indicated he will name at least three special prosecutors to this job, and issued a request to all citizens to come forward with information in their possession regarding election irregularities so that he may at once submit them for action to the team of special prosecutors soon to be appointed.

Meanwhile, as a gesture of Filipino-Indo friendship and goodwill, President Quirino on the same day sent a floral wreath to be laid at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi, through Lorenzo Bautista, president of Town Hall Philippines, who was enplaning to New Delhi to attend a conference on world peace in that city.

THE U. S. Congressional Committee headed by John Miles, Representative from New Mexico, paid an official call on the President on November 26. The visiting American representatives are members of the Public Lands Subcommittee who arrived earlier in the morning on a tour of United States Trust territories. They are Representatives William Lemke of North Dakota, Jay LeFevre of New York, A. L. Miller of California, Edward Jennison of Illinois, Fred Crawford of Michigan, Delegate Joseph Farrington of Hawaii, H. Mills Astin, clerk of the Senate Insular Committee; Ermin Siverman, counsel of the U. S. Department of the Interior; William Cargo of the State Department, Capt. P. G. Hale of the U. S. Navy and Cmdr. W. C. Chamberliss in the staff of CINPAC Fleet, USN.

PRESIDENT Quirino on November 27 directed PACSA chairman Asuncion A. Perez to proceed to Batangas to attend to civilian evacuees and other needy families in the trouble area. Mrs. Perez said she will take along a staff of doctors and nurses and a crew of social workers. She will also bring clothing and medicine and intends to buy rice from local suppliers in Batangas for distribution to the displaced families there.

THE over-all economic situation in the Philippines was discussed by President Quirino with members of the U. S. Senate subcommittee on appropriations during their call at Malacañan on November 27. The visiting American officials who called on the President to pay their respects, arrived Manila from Batavia early that morning in the course of a lengthy survey tour of Pacific and Far Eastern countries. Headed by Senator Allen Joseph Ellender (D., Louisiana), the group is composed of Senators Milton R. Young (R., North Dakota), Theodore F. Green (D., Rhode Island), Homer Ferguson (R., Michigan) and William E. Jenner (D., Indiana).

AN administration plan for a sweeping reorganization of the Government from the Cabinet down and the imposition of restrictions on extravagant private activities was disclosed by President Quirino as part of his announced austerity program. At the weekly press conference in Malacañan on November 28, the Chief Executive revealed he was planning to create a commission of experts to study the revamp of the Government machinery for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary positions, and consolidating and coordinating various offices wherever this is feasible. This program has been conceived; he said, in his determined effort to restore the nation's financial stability and to hasten the execution of his total economic mobilization scheme.

AFTER consultation with the Cabinet on November 29, President Quirino directed the NARIC to reduce the price of rice further by ₱0.10 per ganta on all classifications. This order would reduce the price of NARIC rice from ₱0.90 to ₱0.80 per ganta in line with the President's policy of progressive price reduction of the staple commodity. It was also disclosed during the Cabinet meeting that the government's financial assistance program for the abaca industry had resulted in the rehabilitation of more than 3,500 hectares' of abaca lands during the period from August 1 to October 31 in the provinces of Cotabato and Davao alone. Secretary of Commerce and Industry Placido Mapa revealed that this government program made possible the mortgaging by abaca planters of their rights and improvements of their land thereby helping them secure much-needed loans to finance their operations.

PRESIDENT Quirino on November 29 issued Executive Order No. 295 revising the rules and regulations on the control of imports of non-essential and luxury articles into the Philippines as provided for in Republic Act No. 330. [*See EXECUTIVE ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS for the full text of Executive Order No. 295.*]

PRESIDENT Quirino on November 30 led the nation in its fifth postwar celebration of National Heroes' Day. He observed the day simply and solemnly by paying brief visits at the Rizal monument on the Luneta, the Bonifacio monument at Balintawak, the tombs of Presidents Quezon and Roxas and the mausoleum of the Veterans of the Revolution at the North Cemetery. Earlier in the day, the President had wreaths placed on these monuments and tombs of the nation's heroes and leaders. He also sent wreaths to the American national cemetery in Fort Mckinley in honor of American soldiers who died in the Liberation campaign, the Bataan Memorial cemetery at Mount Samat in honor of the Bataan heroes, and in Fort Santiago where an all-day National Heroes Day celebration was scheduled.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: December, 1949

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino welcomed Dr. Luang Bhadravadi as Thailand's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in the Philippines at a brief but impressive presentation ceremony in Malacañan social hall at 5 o'clock p.m., December 1, Attired in the traditional diplomatic uniform of the Thailand foreign service fully-panoplied with epaulettes and decorations including those of the Order of the Elephant and Order of the Crown, Minister Bhadravadi in his three-minute presentation speech pledged himself to work earnestly in the promotion of "closer collaboration between Thailand and the Philippines." The occasion marked the formal opening in Manila of Thailand's first diplomatic mission in this country. Until Minister Bhadravadi's accreditation as envoy of the Phibum Songgram government to the Republic, Thailand had an honorary consular mission here with Attorney Eugene Perkins as honorary consul general.

THE committee of special investigators created to investigate and take action on all charges of violations of the Election Law issued an appeal to all political parties and citizens concerned to submit charges of election law violations on or before December 17. Called to a conference on December 2 by Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepomuceno, the committee mapped out the course of action to be taken in connection with the President's instructions to act on election complaints without delay regardless of political affiliations of persons involved. The meeting was attended by Solicitor General Felix Angelo Bautista and members of the committee, namely, Pedro C. Quinto, Luis M. Kasilag and Agapito R. Conchu. The committee announced that all investigations will be held in public and representatives of the press will be especially requested to be present at such investigations so that there may be no charge of partiality or attempts to conceal evidence submitted.

PRESIDENT Quirino December 3 took time out from official duties to pay tribute to the two enlisted men of the presidential guards who died from gunshot wounds inflicted by a fellow guard during an altercation in the Malacañan grounds two days before. Speaking at the necrological services in memory of the two enlisted men at the Malacañan Park where the remains of the deceased lie in state, the President expressed deep regret over the unfortunate incident and added he could not blame anybody for the sad happening, except perhaps for "that weak characteristic in man to lose control of himself."

THE Filipino youth of today has the opportunity to lend his brain and his hands to help build an order of abundance in this growing country, declared Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista in a prepared address he was to deliver at the PCCBA oratorical contest December 4 but which was read instead by Dr. Marciano Roque, acting assistant executive secretary, as Evangelista had left for the U. S. to serve as delegate to the United Nations. "Our government has a challenge for us in its concrete program of development. The fulfillment of this challenge can effectively put many a monster of evil in the outer darkness . . . We must renew our springs of faith. We must believe that we can achieve new landmarks; of goodwill, of peace, or common freedom, and of plenty in spite of the multitude of problems that cast a pall on our horizon . . . We can recall that the generations before us have faced great odds and in their own way have conquered them. We have better equipment today and should have more faith," Secretary Evangelista stated in his message.

THE foreign office convened December 5 a committee of economic and financial experts from various government agencies to go over the draft of the projected Philippine-Thailand barter trade pact. The draft was prepared by the foreign office economic experts and is the first of similar agreements proposed to be negotiated by the Republic with countries all over the world, especially countries whose trade potentialities are hamstrung by dollar deficiencies. The proposed barter pact with Thailand is in the priority list of treaties to be negotiated by the Philippines.

SECRETARY of Labor Primitivo Lovina December 6 submitted to President Quirino the original copy of a testimonial signed by representatives of Philippine labor placing their respective organizations on record as "condemning any action of civil disobedience as an assault on the vital structures of our democratic institutions." The testimonial entitled, "A Memorial to Peace" had been approved a week before at a meeting of the labor representatives following suggestions from some politicians that "civil disobedience" be observed by the people as a protest against alleged irregularities in the November elections. The labor representatives also advocated in their

testimonial that 1950 be ushered in as a “year of labor,” urged the enactment of an adequate Labor Code, nationalization of labor, adoption of social security measures and creation of a national committee on unemployment.

PRESIDENT Quirino directed members of his cabinet December 6 to initiate moves to carry out the government’s austerity program at their own level. He enjoined members of the cabinet to start economy measures by holding meetings of the boards of which they are members during office hours, firstly, to eliminate expenses for meals during board meetings and to minimize overtime work for personnel concerned. The President also emphasized that department secretaries should work during office hours and avoid holding up employees in their departments for overtime work. He urged shifting the schedule of personnel to eliminate entirely overtime work.

MALACAÑAN December 7 received from Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde a radiogram containing the text of an editorial published by the *New York Times*, in which that influential daily described the import control measure in the Philippines as a “necessary course of action.” The editorial commented that the import control measure would be unpleasant in many respects but added that the measure was a result of the “best technical advice . . . largely from American sources.”

DEPARTMENT undersecretaries held a conference at the council of state room in Malacañan December 8 to discuss ways and means whereby each could improve the service under his department in accordance with President Quirino’s policy of clean, honest and efficient government. With assistant executive secretary Marciano Roque, presiding, each undersecretary brought up various administrative problems in his department and received suggestions from his fellow officials on how he could best solve those problems. Measures to coordinate the work in all departments and the implementation of the austerity program enunciated by the administration were also taken up by the conferees. Present were Undersecretaries Crispin Llamado of Finance, Jose P. Bengson of Justice, Cecilio Putong of Education, Vicente Orosa of Public Works and Communications, Regino Padua of Health, Jose Figueras of Labor, Saturnino Mendinueto of Commerce and Industry, and Commissioner Jose Gil of Civil Service.

PRESIDENT Quirino during the cabinet meeting December 9 announced a new policy decision to sell government-owned residential lots without profit to the government. In announcing the policy, the President emphasized it is the intention of the government not to make money, especially on low-income citizens who should be afforded all opportunities to own their homes. On the same cabinet meeting, the President also moved to encourage the growth of more privately-operated hospitals by direct subsidy in order that these hospitals may operate free wards for the benefit of indigents. He pointed out that it would be more economical to subsidize private hospitals to operate free wards than construct and operate new government hospitals for this purpose.

A DIRECT appeal to educators throughout the country to cooperate with the administration in its campaign against lawlessness and disorder was made by President Quirino December 10. The occasion was the tea party given at Malacañan in honor of delegates to the second educational conference in Manila. Some 100 representatives of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Christian Schools and Colleges from all over the country attended the affair. Addressing the gathering, the President emphasized: “At this time when the nation is struggling to rise from the prostration brought by the war, it is essential that the people concentrate their energies to productive endeavors.” He pointed out the immense responsibility of educational institutions in preparing the youth for peaceful and constructive citizenship.

A DELEGATION from the Philippine Institute of Accountants which just completed a three-day national convention in Manila, called on President Quirino at Malacañan December 11 to present a resolution pledging wholehearted support and cooperation to the administration’s program of economic mobilization and social amelioration. Francisco Dalupan, PIA president, introduced the President to the delegation as “the friend of accountants.” In a jestive mood, the Chief Executive however observed that the government had in the past lost considerable amounts of potential revenue due to alleged connivance of shrewd CPA’s and unscrupulous tax evaders. With the CPA’S now pledging full cooperation with the government, the President stated the administration would now be assured of success in its efforts to bolster the nation’s finances.

CONVEYING the personal greetings of Dr. Chaim Weizman, president of the new Republic of Israel, the Israel delegation which arrived three days before in Manila, called on President Quirino December 12. Dr. Gershon Meron, head of the group, assured the President of the deep gratitude of the people of Israel for what President Quirino did in supporting the creation of the Jewish State. It will be recalled that the Philippines was one of the countries that strongly advocated and voted for partition of the Arab state which brought about the creation of Israel.

A REUNION of the two wings of the Liberal Party took place December 13 when LP senators, headed by Senate President Jose Avelino and President Pro-tempore M. Jesus Cuenco, trooped to Malacañan to felicitate President Quirino following a joint session of congress which proclaimed the newly elected President and Vice President. In a toast offered in the course of the senatorial visit, President Quirino said: "For the good of the country and the continued cooperation of the Liberal party." Senators present were Vicente Madrigal, Salipada Pendatun, Emiliano Tria Tirona, Carlos Tan, Ramon Torres, Pablo Angeles David, Olegario Clarin, Fernando Lopez, Geronima T. Pecson, Enrique Magalona and Tomas Confesor. Other guests included Congressman Atilano Cinco of Leyte, Congressman Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda and Mayor Asterio Querubin of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.

PRESIDENT Quirino officially welcomed Lucien Colin as French envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Philippines at an impressive presentation ceremony in Malacañan December 14. In his presentation speech, Minister Colin voiced determination "to enhance still further the relations of mutual esteem and friendship already existing between the Philippines and France." President Quirino, in his response, called attention to the "community of political traditions between France and the Philippines" as well as their "common Christian orientation and cultural background." However, what has strengthened the ties between the two countries, according to the President, was "the identical zeal and determination with which both resisted totalitarian aggression even as they fell under enemy occupation in the last world conflict."

"PRESIDENT Quirino December 15 appealed for creative cooperation and unity among the people so that they may better dedicate their energies to the common task of nation building. Delivering his 14th monthly radio chat over a nationwide hookup by remote control from Malacañan, the President at the same time sounded a stern warning for persons who spread alarm, fear and confusion, and distract people from their legitimate pursuits. "We have too much work waiting to be done to allow for the costly luxury of endless idle talk," the President pointed out. "It is time that we observed order—order not merely in our communities but in our minds and in our hearts."

THE cabinet on December 16 approved two measures intended to further boost rice production and to stabilize the local market for palay for the protection of local rice producers. These measures are, (1) the setting up of a ₱1,000,000 revolving fund for the purchase of fertilizers to be resold on credit to small rice farmers and (2) the setting up of a minimum purchase price of local palay at ₱11 per cavan which is ₱3 lower than during the rice emergency last year but higher by several pesos than the current price offered by palay dealers. In approving the measures, the President said the progressive reduction of the price of rice is more desirable even at the risk of the NARIC's suffering losses because the ultimate objective of the government is to further reduce the price of this staple commodity for the benefit of the masses.

PRESIDENT Quirino emplaned for Baguio on December 17 for a few days rest and to prepare his inaugural speech for December 30. Among those who saw the President off at the Manila International airport were Vice President-elect Fernando Lopez, Speaker Eugenio Perez, Secretary Pio Pedrosa and Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque. Meanwhile, Malacañan received a telegram from former President Sergio Osmeña in Cebu notifying the President of his decision to continue serving as member of the Council of State. Osmeña's telegram was in reply to a wire sent by President Quirino thanking the former President for his felicitations on the proclamation of President Quirino by Congress and advising him that the State Council had decided to request him to reconsider his long-standing resignation from that body.

THE foreign office announced December 19 that Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo has been instructed to extend to all member nations of the UN except the United States, a formal invitation of the Philippine government to send representatives to the president's and vice president's inaugural ceremonies to be held in Manila on December 30. Similar instructions were wired to Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde for transmittal to the Washington authorities, and to Minister Bernabe Africa for General Douglas MacArthur.

CHILDREN of indigent families in Manila had their share of Christmas cheer when Miss Vicky Quirino, the President's daughter, distributed gifts to them at the traditional Children's Christmas Festival held in the Malacañan grounds December 22. Assisted by Sandra Cowen, daughter of Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Miss Quirino plodded for two hours through the throng of thousands gathered at the Palace grounds as she handed packages containing candies, clothing, milk, piggy banks and ice cream to eager, outstretched hands of indigent children.

"IN joining with my fellow countrymen in the joyous spirit that blesses us all on this day, I hope we all pause to remember that the Nativity, along with all things that flow from it, is an immortal testimony to the inviolable essence of the human person," thus President Quirino declared in a message on the eve of Christmas. "Our appreciation of this fact arms us to resist the arbitrariness and oppression of any and all forms of totalitarianism seeking absolute dominance over our bodies and our souls. It lifts us from the status of mere disposable things to the dignity of men fit for freedom and a divine inheritance," the President concluded.

PRESIDENT Quirino observed Christmas day simply and quietly with members of his family at the Mansion House, Baguio City, in line with the austerity program enunciated by his administration.

THE Philippines formally accorded de jure recognition to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia effective after the close of the Djakarta inaugural ceremonies of the Republic. The grant of recognition was decided by President Quirino in Baguio on December 27 and instantly wired by the foreign office to Philippine Consul Vicente Pastrana in Djakarta for transmittal to the Soekarno government. It is believed the Philippines was among the first countries to extend full diplomatic recognition to the new-born Republic.

ACCOMPANIED by the immediate members of his family, his aides and Maj. Gen. Mariano N. Castaneda, AFP chief, President Quirino returned to Manila December 28 after a ten-day sojourn in Baguio City. "I am fully rested and ready for work ahead," the President declared when asked by newsmen for statement on his arrival. Among those at the airport to greet the Chief Executive were Vice President-elect Fernando Lopez, Speaker Eugenio Perez and members of the cabinet.

PRESIDENT Quirino on December 28 issued a proclamation calling congress to a four-day special session beginning 7:30 a. m., December 30, 1949. (*See EXECUTIVE ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS by the President*). Meanwhile, on the same day, a goldfilled pen and pencil set with which to sign his oath of office at his inauguration on December 30 was presented to the President by a 200-man delegation from Ilocos Sur led by Congressmen Floro Crisologo and Rieardo Gacula, and Governor Perfect Faypon.

DIPLOMATIC and consular representatives in Manila called at Malacañan December 29 to convey to the President the "congratulations and best wishes" of their respective countries on the eve of his inauguration. Those who called on the President were Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Ambassador Chen Chin-Ping, Ambassador Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas, Ambassador Pyun Yung Thai, Minister L. H. Foulds, Minister Torsten Hainmarstrom, Minister Nicolai Aall, Minister A. J. D. Steenstra Toussaint; Minister Luang Bhadravadi, Minister Lueien Colin, Charge d'Affaires Vittorio Strigari, Charge d'Affaires R. Guillaume, Charge d'Affaires F. E. Massot, Consul-General J. K. Waller, Consul Rafael Pei'ez Rosales, Consul Oscar A. Schneider, Consul Gustav Halberg, Consul Charles Tambu and Consul Alex Adamson.

THE "special blessings" of the Pope to the Filipino people was personally conveyed to President Quirino on December 30 by Minister Proceso Sebastian who had attended the Holy Year conference in Rome as personal envoy of the President.

PRESIDENT Quirino besought the nation's full faith and cooperation in the next four years of his administration which he pledged to be years of positive work and accomplishment, under an aegis of national unity within the country and cordial relations abroad commensurate with the requirements of national security. This was the keynote of the Chief Executive's inaugural address, which he delivered shortly after his induction into office by Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran as the second President of the Republic of the Philippines in impressive ceremonies held at the New Luneta at high noon, December 30.

“Humbly and in full consciousness of my own limitations,” the President said in clear, slow tones, “I enter anew upon the duties of President of the Republic determined to shoulder the responsibilities of this high office as the instrument of the people’s will and the servant of the public weal.” President Quirino outlined the program of his administration, prefacing it with his solemn promise of placing himself at the service of the people without distinction as to creed, class, or station.

“I pledge my whole effort to the protection of the people’s fundamental rights, the improvement of their livelihood, and the defense, of their free institutions,” he emphasized. Touching on foreign relations, the President declared the United States is still the best friend of the Philippines, and the Filipinos look to her in the full realization that in this atomic age America’s area of safety has no delimiting frontier, because it encompasses every freedom-loving country in the world.

President Quirino took his oath of office exactly 11:58 a. m. Standing behind him as he was sworn into office were his daughter Vicky, his son Tommy, and his daughter-in-law Concinita. He signed his oath of office with three pens, one of which, was a gift from the people of Ilocos Sur, Vice President-elect Fernando Lopez took his oath of office after the President, as his wife, daughter, and son, looked on. He signed his oath of office with a pen donated by organized labor.

Attended by a retinue of high government officials and members of the diplomatic corps in full uniform, the induction ceremonies’ were preceded by a full-dress military parade with all units of the Armed Forces participating. The parade was led by Maj. Gen. Mariano N. Castañeda, PA chief, and grand marshal of the parade.

Fraternal greetings from friendly countries all over the world began to pour at Malacañan Palace on December 31, on the occasion of President Quirino’s inauguration as chief magistrate of the land.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: January 1, 1950

A national policy governing the shipment of Philippine outgoing and incoming cargo on vessels and planes flying the Philippine flag was announced by Malacañan on January 1. The new policy requires all government instrumentalities, including government corporations, to ship their cargo on Philippine-owned vessels or carriers operating in overseas trade.

President Quirino on New Year's Eve granted pardon to nine prisoners upon recommendation of the board of pardons and parole. It was among the first official acts of the President since his inauguration and last state papers signed in 1949.

President's Month in Review: January 2, 1950

At the regular cabinet meeting on January 2, President Quirino informed his Cabinet that his "home-for-the-homeless" program was high on his agenda. In this connection, the President named a three man committee to look into the distribution of government-owned residential lots to low-income persons at no profit to the Government. The President directed the committee to examine the current operations of the Peoples Housing and Homesite Corporation which was reported to have been subdividing lots at Diliman at prices much above the book value of the lots.

A dinner musicale highlighted the birthday anniversary celebration in honor of the late President Manuel Roxas given by President Quirino at the Malacañan Social Hall on January 2. Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, widow of the late President was among these present.

Vice-President Fernando Lopez formally occupied office in Malacañan on January 2, spending an unusual heavy day receiving ranking government officials and well-wishers. His office is located in Room 10 on the second floor of the Executive Building, the same room occupied by President Quirino and Ex-President Osmena when both were serving as vice president.

President's Month in Review: January 3, 1950

A proclamation extending for one day the period of the special session of Congress was issued by President Quirino on January 3. The extension was said to have been made because "public interest requires that this special session be extended to consider urgent legislative measures."

President's Month in Review: January 4, 1950

President Quirino before noon on January 4 sent to Congress for concurrence Proclamation No. 164 granting amnesty to the leaders and members of the Batangas uprising which commenced November 19, 1949. [See EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND PROCLAMATIONS by the President for full text of Proclamation No. 164.]

President's Month in Review: January 6, 1950

Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri was temporarily designated Secretary of Foreign Affairs by President Quirino on January 6 during a regular cabinet meeting. Neri's promotion to full cabinet rank was viewed in diplomatic circles as a tribute to career men in the foreign service. With this elevation, Neri earned the title of "Benjamin in the Cabinet."

A special cabinet committee at its meeting on January 6 recommended the release of Dr. Rafael Palma's biography of Dr. Jose Rizal for home reading in the secondary schools. The committee's recommendation came in the wake of loud protests against the release of Palma's "Pride of the Malay Race" from a cross section of the country's Catholic population. The special committee was composed of Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepomuceno as chairman, Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcaon, and Social Welfare Commissioner Asuncion Perez as members.

On January 6, the eve of his departure for medical treatment in the United States, President Quirino issued Executive Order No. 299 which in effect authorized Vice-President Fernando Lopez to exercise supervision over the executive departments for and in the name of the President. The order provided for instruction to be followed in the conduct of public affairs during the period of absence of the Chief Executive. [See EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND PROCLAMATIONS by the President for full text of Executive Order No. 299.]

President's Month in Review: January 7, 1950

A large crowd of government officials and private citizens thronged the Manila International Airport on January 7 to give President Quirino a warm send off and to wish him "quick return." The Chief Executive left aboard the Mindoro, a PAL-6 for the United States where he underwent a kidney operation at the Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore Maryland. The Presidential plane took off at exactly 11:35 a.m. under a slight drizzle. The Presidential entourage included former Speaker Jose Yulo, Miss Victoria Quirino, Lt. and Mrs. Tomas Quirino, Dr. Agerico B.M. Sison, Private Secretary Federico Mangahas, Col. Lauro Hernandez, Comdr. Carlos Albert, Assistant Private Secretary Juanito Gella and Mrs. Katy Pons Musser. Immediately before boarding his ship, the President, speaking over a remote control broadcast by DZFM, said "I hope that the people will conduct themselves with patriotism while I am away... please pray for me and I hope you won't forget me." On his way to the airport, the President called on Speaker Eugenio Perez at the Philippine General Hospital where the latter had been rushed earlier in the day for an appendectomy operation.

Shortly after the departure of the President for the United States, Vice-President Fernando Lopez performed his first official act for the Chief Executive when he inducted into office Undersecretary of Health Regino Padua as Acting Secretary of the same department. Dr. Padua temporarily took the place of Secretary Antonio Villarama who had been previously designated member of the executive board of the World Health Organization in Geneva.

President's Month in Review: January 9, 1950

Vice-President Fernando Lopez, in his capacity as chairman of the Government Enterprises Council, told the press at an informal conference on January 9, that he expected to perfect the plan for the reorganization of all government corporations before President Quirino's return for the reorganization of all government corporations before Presidents Quirino's return from the United States. He expressed high hopes of finishing the groundwork for the reorganization of all corporations so that he would be able to submit it for the President's approval upon the latter's return.

President's Month in Review: January 11, 1950

The first step towards the reorganization of all government corporations was taken on January 11 when Vice-President Lopez, announced the creation of a five-man committee to take charge of the reorganization project. Economic Administrator H. B. Reyes was named chairman of the committee.

Messages from the United States poured in incessantly at Malacañan reporting on the condition and activities of President Quirino. According to dispatches, the President was admitted to the John Hopkins hospital at Baltimore, Maryland on January 11 and shortly thereafter received numerous well-wishers including Cardinal Spellman and Theo. A. Roth, head of the Fordham University Club. The President was also the recipient of bouquets and well-wishing messages from home and abroad.

President's Month in Review: January 12, 1950

Vice-President Lopez addressed "Manila's Finest" on January 12 in connection with the second anniversary celebration of Chief Eduardo Quintos as head of the Manila Police Department, and the awarding of meritorious medals to Manila's Chief Police and members of the police force. The Vice President lauded the achievements of the force in maintaining peace and order in Manila and at the same time enjoined the citizenry to give more cooperation to the law-enforcing agency of the city.

President's Month in Review: January 13, 1950

Mrs. Fernando Lopez gave a tea musicale at Malacañan Palace on January 13 in honor of Miss Betty McKell, daughter of the Governor General of Australia who was an official guest of President Quirino during her visit here. The honoree was entertained by local musical artists including the Vice-Presidents wife herself who rendered the piano selection. Ranking government officials and prominent citizens were present at the affair.

Vice-President Lopez completed the line-up of the five-man committee in charge of the reorganization of all government corporations with the appointment of the following members on January 13: Ex-Congressman Oscar Ledesma of Iloilo, Salvador Araneta, Delfin Buencamino, and Deputy Auditor General Pablo Gimenez. Economic Administrator H.B. Reyes was named chairman of the committee, previously.

President's Month in Review: January 15, 1950

President Quirino, speaking during his regular monthly radio chat on January 15, urged the Filipino nation to keep together in the solution of the country's immediate problems. "While we must be alert, vigilant and ready to resist any threat to our economic or political institutions from within as well as from without I consider it wholly unpatriotic to divide our people in these critical moments. I, therefore, appeal that friends and foes alike in the political field should exert unselfish efforts to find a common ground of action, for the welfare of happiness of our children," the President declared.

President's Month in Review: January 16, 1950

President Quirino was successfully operated on for the removal of a kidney stone at the Johns Hopkins hospital on January 16. Shortly after receipt of the message from Baltimore, Maryland, Vice-President Lopez in behalf of the entire nation wired a message to the President, rejoicing over the success of the operation and at the same time wishing him speedy recovery and quick return.

President's Month in Review: January 18, 1950

President Quirino showed deep concern when informed of the death of Col. Valentin Salgado, senior aide to AFP Chief of Staff, General Mariano Castaneda, according to words received at Malacañan on January 18. The President directed Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Ponce to wire him full details surrounding the Castaneda ambush which led to the slaying of Salgado. Meanwhile, the Vice President, paid his respects to the deceased at the Funeraria Nacional.

President's Month in Review: January 19, 1950

A thanksgiving mass for the successful operation and early recovery of President Quirino was offered at the San Miguel Pro Cathedral on January 19 by the Cabinet headed by Vice President Lopez. The mass was officiated by the Most Reverend Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes and was attended by officials of the different departments of the Government. The following day, the President wired message of thanks to the Vice-President and his Cabinet for their "prayers and best wishes."

President's Month in Review: January 20, 1950

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Philip C. Jessup, on a fact-finding tour of East Asian countries, arrived in Manila from Hongkong January 20. High ranking Philippine and American Embassy officials met the roving ambassador at the Manila International Airport. Jessup called on Vice-President Lopez shortly after his arrival and later on conferred with Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri and other foreign office officials.

President's Month in Review: January 23, 1950

A top-level conference on stand-out issues of international diplomacy was held at the foreign office on January 23 with Ambassador Jessup and a Philippine top team composed of Vice-President Lopez and Secretary Neri as leading participants.

Well on his way to recovery at the Johns Hopkins hospital, President Quirino delivered his state-of-the-nation address to the joint session of Congress on January 23. His speech was beamed through RCS in the United States and picked up by the local radio network at 10 o'clock in the morning just in time for the opening of the regular congressional session. The President centered his address on his national economic program and other problems confronting the country with an appeal to the nation to "exert every effort and employ every ounce of our energy to implement these high objectives."

President's Month in Review: January 31, 1950

President Quirino addressed a message to Premier Nehru felicitating the people of India on the inauguration of their new Republic. The President's message, sent from Baltimore, Maryland, said that the proclamation of the Republic of India was "a historic moment of greatest significance not only to the Indian people but to all Asia and the world-wherever self-determination and democracy are consecrated."

The Cabinet in its meeting on January 31 reappointed the original Palma book committee to reconsider the new petitions and prepare a new report in time for the arrival of the President. Reappointed were Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepumuceno as chairman, and Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcauon, and Social Welfare Commissioner Asuncion Perez as members. In the same meeting, the Cabinet concurred in the decision of the Import Control Board to waive technicality in order to solve the congestion of imported goods at the piers.

Official Month in Review: February 1950

IN a brief but impressive ceremony at the Manila South Harbor on February 1, Vice-President Fernando Lopez accepted in behalf of the Philippines, a note signifying the formal transfer of the newly constructed Pier 9 from the United States Government, represented by Ambassador Myron M. Cowen. In his acceptance speech, the Vice President cited the project as a “symbol of the strong ties that bind the peoples of two nations.”

ACTING Foreign Secretary Felino Neri disclosed on February 2 that three American technical experts are coming to Manila sometime in April, this year, to discuss with local authorities the details of the implementation of President Truman’s Point Four program for the Philippines. The experts will also explore the local field for agricultural and industrial development possibilities, it was learned.

A VAST program of activities directed primarily toward an intensified immunization campaign against common infectious diseases and for the lowering of death rates caused by tuberculosis, beri-beri, gastro-intestinal diseases and malaria, has been outlined for the next four years by Acting Secretary of Health Regino Padua in his report to Malacañan. At the same time, a campaign on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation will be waged through public-health education and information, the report further disclosed.

INDIA formally served notice to the Philippines on February 6 of her desire to enter into a bilateral barter trade treaty with the Philippines, according to a foreign office announcement. It was understood a Philippine draft of the proposed treaty was furnished India Consul General Menon by the foreign office for transmittal to the New Delhi Government.

VICE-President Lopez received William Walton Butterworth, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, on February 7 at Malacañan. The American visitor was accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen. Butterworth, a specialist in international economics, arrived aboard a U. S. Air Force plane from Tokyo on his way to Bangkok to attend a conference of American diplomats in the Far East. During his brief sojourn here, Butterworth was engaged in top level conferences with Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Felino Neri and other department secretaries.

IN line with President Quirino’s economic development program, the Department of Justice has set as one of its major objectives during the next four years the expansion of the agricultural and industrial activities of the Bureau of Prisons and the acceleration of the hearing of cadastral cases so as to enable the General Land Registration Office to issue as many Torrens titles as possible to landowners. This was the gist of the report submitted by the Department of Justice to Malacañan on February 10. The report added that with its manpower of almost 12,000, the Bureau of Prisons expects to carry out its program of industrial and agricultural development, if given enough facilities.

THE alarming shortage of coins throughout the country, particularly in the City of Manila, caused the transmission of a diplomatic note from the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Chinese embassy in Manila expressing Philippine concern over the alleged practice of Chinese nationals particularly those living in Batangas, to hoard coins. The note also bewailed reports that Chinese nationals have been reportedly “spreading false rumors that the Philippine peso will be devalued.”

VICE-President Lopez, in a speech before a group of local businessmen at the Manila Hotel on the occasion of the “Made-in-the-Philippines” week on February 11, declared that the Filipinos should not be content with merely being buyers but should make use of the ingenuity and resourcefulness they demonstrated during the enemy occupation to produce here the necessities of life. [*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of speech.*]

CONCRETE measures calculated to bring material improvement in the lives of the workers have been mapped out by the Department of Labor to meet the challenge of communist propaganda, Undersecretary of Labor Jose Figueras disclosed in his initial report to Malacañan on February 11. The enactment of laws designed to improve the living and working conditions of the workers will be urged on Congress, the report stated.

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino returned to Manila on February 11 after a 34-day sojourn in the United States where he underwent a successful kidney operation at the Johns Hopkins hospital. In a brief extemporaneous speech at the Manila International Airport shortly after his arrival, the President said: "I come home with a new lease of life and with a renewed faith in our future. I assure you that you have a 'renewed' President in many respects. At this, my grateful moment, I ask you to renew with me the faith and confidence in one another." The President returned aboard the P.A.L. plane *Mindoro* together with immediate members of his family and other members of his party. A crowd of 10,000 thronged the airport to welcome the Chief Executive.

A SHIFT in the emphasis of the lending policy of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation was decided on February 13 after a lengthy conference in Malacañan between President Quirino, Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa, R.F.C. Chairman Delfin Buencamino and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven. Accordingly the former R.F.C. policy of granting loans for real estate, building construction and other rehabilitation projects was revised into the policy of granting loans primarily for economic development projects.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued Executive Order No. 302 on February 14, exempting from import control construction materials needed for the completion of government projects financed by war damage funds. The order was issued upon recommendation of Secretary of Public Works Prospero Sanidad, who pointed out that most of the government projects involved must be finished by June 30 this year or the war damage funds for them would revert to the U. S. Treasury.

THE Cabinet at a meeting on February 14, ratified the new report of the special committee on the controversial Palma Book authorizing the release of Rizal's autobiography as optional reading in Philippine secondary schools. The cabinet maintained that the religious aspect of the book is not the concern of the Government. By the same token, the Government will not concern itself with the decision of the Catholic hierarchy to ban the book from their institutions.

THE President, during his regular meeting with the Council of State on February 15, gave the council a lengthy "fill-in" on his conversation with President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson during his stay in the United States. The Chief Executive told the council that as a result of his visit to Washington, most of the questions affecting Philippine-American relations were clarified. He added that he looks forward to continued close association and mutual assistance between the two countries.

PRESIDENT Quirino gave the green light for the establishment of a Philippine Legation in Djakarta, capital of the Republic of Indonesia, with Roving Ambassador Manuel V. Gallego as first diplomatic envoy with the personal rank of Ambassador. The decision was made by the President on February 17 during a regular Cabinet meeting.

MEANWHILE, the Cabinet authorized the importation by private importers of 14,000 tons of cement from Japan to cover the expected shortage of cement needed for urgent construction work during the next three months. The Cabinet also referred to Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina for possible administration backing the draft of a proposed legislation for a five-day-week work for all government employees.

PRESIDENT Quirino signed on February 20 the instrument of ratification of the International Wheat Agreement, thus officially making the Philippines a signatory to the world wheat pact. The President signed the pact in the presence of Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and Minister Domingo Imperial.

"LET us make every home a food granary, every citizen a food producer." This was the slogan endorsed by the Cabinet on February 21 during its meeting for this year's national food production campaign. The slogan was contained in a message prepared by Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido Mapa upon his assumption as general manager of national food production campaign.

THE Cabinet, in the same meeting, approved a list of priorities in the allocation of dollar exchange to determine which commodities should be given preference in the distribution of available foreign exchange this year.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 23 the issuance by the President of Executive Order No. 303, returning to the Armed Forces of the Philippines seven battalions transferred to the Philippine Constabulary in September, 1948. The order was issued in line with the President's policy of concentrating national police work in the Constabulary and strengthen the Army's combat teams for field work.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Teodoro Evangelista returned to Manila on February 24 after a lengthy absence from the country following his designation as Philippine delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in Lake Success and to the Trusteeship Council meeting in Geneva. Mr. Evangelista declared that with the world opinion behind it, the United Nations is bound to succeed as an instrument to promote world peace.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 25 that President Quirino issued a proclamation allocating a site for the Filipino Veterans Hospital. The proclamation reserves a parcel of land approximately 549,120 square meters in area, situated along Timog avenue in Diliman, Quezon City. The site is owned by the Government under the administration of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

THE Department of Foreign Affairs in a statement on February 27, discounted a press report to the effect that Australian External Affairs Minister Percy Claude Spender will visit Manila reportedly to confer with President Quirino on the projected Southeast Asia Union. A foreign office spokesman said Minister Spender's forthcoming trip to Manila will be in the nature of a goodwill visit in response to an invitation extended to him by the Philippine Government.

VICE-President Fernando Lopez in a speech before the second annual convention of the National Land Transportation Operators Association at the Selecta on February 27, vehemently scored "cut throat" competition among land transportation operators, terming it as "unbridled, irresponsible and ruinous," and as "the greatest threat to the future stability of the land transportation business in the country."

PRESIDENT Quirino appealed to the people to cooperate with the Government's food production campaign by setting up fruit and vegetable gardens "in every available space" in their backyards. The appeal was sounded through the officials of the University of the Philippines who called on the President on February 27 to felicitate him on his successful operation and safe return from the United States. During the call, the President took occasion to inquire into the problems of the State university.

APPROVAL of a one-million peso overdraft line with the Philippine National Bank for further implementation of the projected five-year rehabilitation program of the local tobacco industry was urged on the President by Vice-President Lopez in the latter's capacity as chairman of the Government Enterprises Council. The funds sought under this credit line shall be used to provide additional working capital to finance the activities embraced in the five-year rehabilitation program of the National Tobacco Corporation.

THE Cabinet at its meeting on February 28, authorized government participation in the Trade and Industries Fair to be held in conjunction with the fifth world congress of the Junior Chamber International in the Manila Hotel. The fair was intended to familiarize the visiting delegates to the Jaycees convention with Philippine agricultural and industrial products.

A COMMISSION to assist the President in the reorganization of the executive departments and other instrumentalities of the Government, as well as government-owned and controlled corporation, was created by President Quirino in an administrative order issued on February 28. The Reorganization Commission is charged with the duty of submitting within six months a report containing recommendations for the reorganization of government offices and corporations, with a view to promoting simplicity, economy and efficiency in the government service. The Commission is composed of Ramon Fernandez, Chairman, and Luis P. Torres, Pio Joven, Jose Paez, Teofilo Sison, N. H. Reyes, Pablo Lorenzo, Aurelio Montinola, and Jose Gil, members.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1950). The Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(2), xiii-xvi.

President's Month in Review: March, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino formally inaugurated the newly installed radio-telephone circuit between Manila and Cebu on March 1 with three-minute telephone conversations with ex-President Sergio Osmeña and Mayor Miguel Raffiñan in Cebu City.

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez urged a dispassionate study of communism and a re-examination of democracy as the best way of defeating the Red menace in a speech delivered on the opening day of the Fifth World Congress of the Junior Chamber International at the Far Eastern University auditorium on March 1. "The loud claims of communism are but blatant claims. Compared to the promise of democracy, that of communism is but empty promise which can never be realized," Mr. Lopez told the youthful delegates from all over the world.

ECONOMY, efficiency and simplicity" were the by-words stressed by President Quirino in his instructions to members of the Government revamp commission following their induction into office on March 2 at the Council of State room in Malacañan. "The public expects us to accomplish things never accomplished in the past," the Chief Executive stated. "There will be criticisms but don't mind them. Just do what you think is right," he added. Inducted were Don Ramon Fernandez, chairman; Commissioner Pio Joven, RFC Governor Pablo Lorenzo, Jose Paez, Teofilo Sison and H. B. Reyes, members; and Commissioner Jose Gil, executive secretary.

THE Philippine Government formally entered her accession to the International Wheat Agreement, according to advices received by the foreign office from Ambassador Joaquin Elizalde on March 2. The Philippines became the 43rd country to adhere to the terms of the International Wheat Agreement under which the local government is guaranteed a quota of 196,000 metric tons of wheat equivalent to 141,000 metric tons of flour over the next five-year period ending 1953.

THE Cabinet, in its regular meeting March 3, (1) approved a request of the Secretary of National Defense to make representations with the Far Eastern Commission for the payment of the cost for replacement of the presidential yacht *Casiana* which was destroyed during a Japanese raid in 1942; (2) directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek immediate determination of the status of the sunken ships in Philippine waters in connection with a move to cancel the contract of Mollers and Choy of Hongkong for salvage work; and (3) authorized the sending of a group of pensionados to undergo training in various phases of aviation under the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946.

Meanwhile, in the same session, drafts of proposed legislations regarding tax collection and labor were submitted by Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa and Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina, respectively, for Cabinet study and consideration.

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez, in his capacity as chairman of the Government Enterprises Council, pledged to give small industrialists all possible opportunities to share the benefits of the country's industrialization program. He gave this assurance to a group of SIMSOP officials (Small Industrialists and Machine Shop Owners of the Philippines) who called at Malacañan in connection with their convention in Manila, on March 4.

President Quirino paused from his pressing duties on March 4 to welcome personally delegates to the fifth international convention of the Junior Chamber International which was held in Manila. Assuring the hospitality of the country and expressing gratitude over the selection of Manila as the site of their fifth congress, the President told the youthful world delegates "Here, in miniature, you may see a new world come into being, suspended between the darkness and the light, caught in the crossfire of embattled ideologies, yet knowing that its only proper destiny is freedom."

MALACAÑAN had a distinguished visitor on March 4 in the person of Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, RN, commander of the British Navy, who arrived aboard the British dispatch vessel H.M.S. *Alert* to participate in the joint U.S.-British fleet maneuvers in Philippine waters. The English visitor called on the President and the Vice President, and was invited to a reception in the evening at Malacañan given in honor of the Jaycee International.

PRESIDENT Quirino literally bundled up all official duties on March 5 A and took them up to Baguio city where he was expected to stay for a month or so to recuperate fully from his recent kidney operation. The President was accompanied by members of his family and official guests including Admiral and Lady Patrick Brind.

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez opened the third annual convention of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters Association in Bacolod City March 7, with a stern warning that the real problem of the sugar industry will come after 1954 when sugar ceases to be on the U. S. free duty list. Admittedly dark as the future of the sugar industry appears to be, the Vice-President however expressed hopes that “with the preferential treatment in the United States market, Philippine sugar may yet reach its production peak this year or in 1951.”

A message from the President was also read before the convention by PNB Vice-President J. D. Quintos. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's message.*]

THE construction of a permanent inaugural grandstand on the Luneta was announced March 8 by a joint executive committee assigned to look into the project. Partial funds for the grandstand, the committee announced, will be appropriated from the unexpended balance of the collections raised in 1946 in connection with the inauguration of the Republic. The balance amounting to ₱250,000 was earmarked for the construction of the central portion of the grandstand.

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez sojourning in his hometown in Iloilo city, vigorously urged the reelection of President Quirino before a large group of city residents during a dinner given in his honor by the market vendors association of the city, on March 9. The Veep, during a two-day stay in the city, conferred with Iloilo officials and war veterans.

THE National Urban Planning Commission took immediate steps to select a fitting site for an eight-foot bronze replica of the Statue of Liberty which was donated by Jack Whitacker, through the Boy Scouts of America to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, as an expression of scout brotherhood and goodwill. Among the sites suggested were Engineer Island, atop the proposed reviewing stand on the Luneta, and on the center island rotunda between the Legislative building and City Hall

UNDERSECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri and United States Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, March 11 agreed to the supplements to the Military Assistance Agreement, which in effect extends for another two years until July 4, 1953, American military assistance to the Philippines which originally would have expired on July 4, 1951. Under the supplemental agreement, the Philippine Government reserves the right to request further extension of the agreement after July 4, 1953.

PRESIDENT Quirino's policy of providing “land for the landless” received effective implementation when wide areas of public lands in Zamboanga and Pangasinan were declared open for agricultural purposes. The Zamboanga area consists of 1,650 hectares situated in the municipal district of Manicahan, while the Pangasinan area consists of 421 hectares in the municipality of Bani.

THE impending war clouds and the responsibility of the Philippine Republic as a member of the concert of nations formed the theme of President Quirino's 17th radio chat delivered March 15 from the Mansion House in Baguio city. “Our country is in the midst of a region which at this moment has become the focal point of international tension. . . . danger has come close again, our own national security is threatened, and our capacity for survival is being put to a severe test the Chief Executive declared. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's radio chat.*]

THE move to grant greater autonomy to local governments received a strong endorsement from Vice-President Fernando Lopez in his address before the convention of provincial governors and city mayors in Baguio city on March 17. This was however accompanied with an appeal to the conventionists to disregard politics in the face of national and international politics which beset the young Republic. “What is needed in any country today is not a working majority but a majority working,” Lopez declared.

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez in his capacity as chairman of the Government Enterprises Council intervened in the Manila Hotel controversy involving the lay-off of some 150 laborers and employees who brought the case to the Vice-President on March 22. A committee composed of both the management and employees group was formed to explore the possibilities of reinstating the laid-off employees without causing any prejudice to the interest of the hotel management.

WITH the joint efforts and cooperation of the Bureau of Telecommunications and the Office of Public Information at Malacañan, an up-to-the-minute news service to all parts of the Archipelago was inaugurated on March 22 in line with the Government's program to reach the masses with up-to-the-minute information.

FIL-AMERICAN relationship was reiterated on March 23 with the symbolic transfer of the newly reconstructed Jones Bridge by the American Government to the Philippine Republic. Vice-President Fernando Lopez, representing President Quirino who was in Baguio, and U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen presided over the impressive ceremonies marking the formal turnover of the bridge. In his speech, the American envoy expressed the hope that not only Filipinos but Americans and other nationalities as well, may be reminded of the simple principle of justice and goodwill between two friendly peoples, as memorialized by the Jones Bridge. Vice-President Lopez responding assured that the bridge would remain a lasting symbol of the mutual friendship and congenial cooperation between the peoples of the Philippines and the United States.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 24 signed in Baguio an executive order A fixing government office hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the summer season beginning April 1 to June 15. In issuing the executive order, the President directed the members of his Cabinet to circularize their personnel to devote the off hours to food production.

Meanwhile, the President during the Cabinet meeting on March 24 directed Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa and Secretary of Agriculture Placido Mapa to draw up a list of urgent economic development projects to determine the allocation of the remaining ₱90,000,000 in economic development funds.

The Cabinet in the same meeting (1) approved the plan of the Labor-Management Board to hold a labor-management conference in the future; (2) approved for disposal to the Philippine Foundation for the Crippled a 16-hectare land in Alabang, Rizal; (3) approved the recommendation of the AFP Chief of Staff to adopt the policy of not suspending any of its personnel who has a standing charge against him falling within the purview of the amnesty proclamation; and (4) authorized Philippine participation in the International Fair at Milan, Italy.

PRESIDENT Quirino's food production campaign was re-echoed by Vice President Lopez in a speech before the convention of the nation's technical agriculturists at the Manila Hotel on March 25. Pointing out that the Philippines is primarily an agricultural country, the Vice President called upon the conventinists whom he called "soldiers of the soil and missionaries of our economic stability and security," to help promote the food production campaign program of the President.

A MUTUAL expression of satisfaction over the efforts of their respective governments at promoting closer and better relations between their countries was made by Vice-President Fernando Lopez and Australian Minister Percy E. Spender who was an official Philippine visitor. Previous to his call on the Vice President, the Australian envoy had paid his respects to President Quirino in Baguio city.

PROBLEMS affecting the local transportation industry were threshed out "across the table" by Vice-President Lopez with representatives of the National Land Transportation Operators Association who called at Malacañan on March 28.

DR. Regino M. Ylanan, national physical director and at the same time ex-officio secretary-treasurer of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, was assigned on special detail for six months in the United States and Europe to study and observe various phases of physical education in foreign schools, colleges and universities. Dr. Ylanan's travel was authorized by the President upon recommendation of Secretary of Education Prudencio Langcauon.

THE tremendous challenge facing every Filipino in relation to his obligations to his country and to the world, was outlined by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista at the second biennial convention of the National YWCA of the Philippines on March 28 in Baguio city. "Today the world is divided by antagonistic philosophies and economic systems. . . . we must work together as a team to meet common problems. . . . we cannot fail; we are making history—this is our challenge," the Executive Secretary emphatically declared.

A FRANK and open discussion of the problems facing the Government was made by President Quirino in his address before the 11th biennial convention of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines held at the Escoda Memorial on March 31.

Asserting that the Republic is passing through a grave crisis today, the President analyzed the three major problems besetting the country, viz.: peace and order; food production and total economic mobilization; and the problem of developing a new sense of honesty and integrity among people whether inside or outside the Government.

In the face of such a serious situation the President however gave assurances of the efforts exerted by the Government to solve these problems and at the same time called upon every citizen to cooperate in their solution.

Because of his inavailability, the Chief Executive's message was read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's address.*]

A MAJOR change in the Armed Forces of the Philippines was announced by Malacañan on March 31 with the issuance by President Quirino of Executive Order No. 308. The following were the main features of the reorganization:

1. Division of the Armed Forces into five major commands: the Constabulary, the Ground Force, the Naval Patrol, the Air Force and the Service Command.
2. Placing of the five commands under the direct command of a Commanding General whose office includes a Deputy Commanding General and assistants to be appointed by the President.
3. Creation of the General Military Council composed of the Commanding General and all commanders of major commands. . . . the Council to advise the Secretary of National Defense on administrative and operational functions of the armed forces.
4. The Philippine Constabulary to continue its present duties as a national police force under the operational control of the Secretary of the Interior.
5. Creation of the new Service Command to handle the general supply, transportation and other services of the entire Armed Forces.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: April, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE development of a sound, stable and progressive economy is the goal set by the Philippine Government to muster from the country's energies and resources. Thus spoke Vice-President Fernando Lopez as he painted a detailed picture of the economic program of the Philippines during the graduation exercises of the National University, Sunday evening, April 2, at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

"We are concerned with developing an economy that can support our population in comparative ease and comfort, an economy that can provide our people with the amplest job opportunities, high standard of living and social benefits that men of dignity are entitled to enjoy," the Vice President declared.

VICE-PRESIDENT Lopez, appointed a three-man committee on April 3, to study and make recommendations on the valuation and disposition of reparation items allotted to the Philippines from Japan. This new set of reparation items has a total book value of ₱24,082,337, consisting of tools and machineries considered useful to private industries and to projects necessary for the economic development program.

DEFORESTATION as a means of conserving the country's natural resources and as a measure of bolstering the country's economic development program was urged by President Quirino in a message delivered Friday, April 14, at the Manila Hotel on the occasion of the golden anniversary of the Bureau of Forestry. Expressing serious concern over the deplorable condition of "our denuded hills and mountains," the President called upon the foresters of the country to do everything within their power to put back under forest cover our "desolate hills and mountains."

IN a message to the graduates of the Far Eastern University during their commencement exercises on April 15, President Quirino issued a challenge to critics of the Administration to come forward and "offer their shoulders to the national wheel and thus help strengthen, with their avowed intellectual and moral vigor, their own nation which they claim is weakening."

"Our people," the President said, "have a right to expect that they be ready to assume their patriotic role in accordance with their avowals. This is the best test of their love of country and their fellowmen, tens of thousands of whom are now suffering because of the apparent withholding of the former's cooperation in the establishment of domestic tranquility so necessary to our national security."

The President's message was read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista. [*See full text of the President's speech in "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.*]

IN his regular monthly radio chat delivered from Baguio, Saturday evening, April 15, the President took stock of Philippine progress toward rehabilitation and self-sufficiency from the time the late President Roxas became the first Chief Executive of the Republic in 1946.

Summarizing the country's progress, the President declared that despite troubled conditions, "we have made remarkable strides in our economic development and have kept our hands steady on the production wheel."

Looking into the future with confidence, the President said: "A strong economy is beginning to evolve. Thus, I feel that we have been able to weather the major crisis expected. I am confident that with more civic spirit, sound common sense, and the determination of our people to work hard and cooperate more energetically in the realization of our program, we shall with time survive the test of our economic stability." [*See full text of the President's radio chat in "Historical Papers and Documents" in this issue.*]

VICE-PRESIDENT Fernando Lopez took time off from his pressing official duties in Malacañan to deliver a series of speeches during the late part of April.

Following were the gists of his addresses:

On April 18 before the graduates of the Roseville College at the University of Santo Tomas gymnasium, he called upon the women to make use of their influence in developing a strong sense of civic consciousness among the citizenry. "You would be failing in your role as Christian mothers if you were to rear children who would become greedy masters and leaders, disloyal and corrupt citizens or parasites to their community," he asserted.

On April 20 during the 27th annual convention of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association in the University of the Philippines campus at Diliman, Quezon City, he urged increased production of livestock to bolster the Government's food production campaign.

The following day, he officiated at a simple ceremony marking the completion of the first of 220 prefabricated model barrio school buildings which will soon be constructed throughout the country with American war damage assistance. Impressed by the manner and speed with which the project was handled, the Vice President in a brief speech termed the work "a small but significant monument to the engineering feat of American ingenuity and Filipino skill."

Addressing the graduates of the Feati Institute of Technology on April 22, Vice-President Lopez lauded the progress of the technology profession in the Philippines, pointing out at the same time the vital role it is expected to play in connection with the industrialization program of the Administration.

"The Philippines is fast advancing in the training of technical men. Our economic and industrial mobilization programs cannot, and will not succeed without technical knowledge. It is inspiring and reassuring to note that some institutions of learning in our country are dedicating themselves to the development of the technical potentialities of our young men and young women. This should be encouraged by the public and the Government," the Vice President declared. [See *full text of the Vice President's address* in "Historical Papers and Documents" *in this issue*.]

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: May, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino on May 3 signed a joint resolution of Congress extending the effectivity of his import control authority till the close of the regular session, in anticipation of the passage of a more comprehensive import control legislation. The President's authority empowers him to regulate the value of imports by quota, license or permit, as provided for in Republic Acts Nos. 423 and 330.

UNDERSECRETARY of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri on May 4 received Ambassador John M. Chang, Korean envoy to the United States, who urged the early establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and the Philippines. Chang said the mutual interests of the two governments would be best served through normal channels of bilateral diplomacy.

PRESIDENT Quirino endorsed the Crisologo housing bill as a means of giving the poor and low-salaried employees an opportunity to own their homes not only in Manila but also in the provinces. Congressman Crisologo explained that his bill was patterned after the U. S. Housing Act which enables low-income families to buy their own homes through loans from registered private companies.

THE members of the Philippine delegation to the sixth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, beginning May 16, were named by the Cabinet on May 5. They are: Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, chief delegate; Col. Amado N. Bautista, manager of the National Development Company, alternate; Dr. Andres V. Castillo of the Central Bank, alternate; Dean Jose Velmonte of the University of the Philippines, alternate; and Trinidad Q. Alconcel, of the Department of Foreign Affairs, alternate.

THE Cabinet clarified two policy matters at its meeting May 5, namely: (1) That Philippine diplomatic offices abroad should be recognized as the highest Philippine authority in the areas under their jurisdiction; and (2) that the principle of open public bidding for all government contracts should be adhered to whenever possible.

PRESIDENT Quirino disapproved the petition of sugar-cane planters seeking condonation of 70 per cent of the real property tax for sugarcane producing lands for the current year as a relief to sugar producers, "as a matter of policy of the Government." The President disapproved the petition on the ground that real property tax is the principal source of revenue of local governments and without it many municipalities would be unable to operate and maintain essential ordinary services.

THE statement attributed to Dr. Jose P. Laurel in Baguio on May 7 which indicated the willingness of the minority leaders to cooperate with the Government if invited to do so, was praised by President Quirino. The President said: "Facing, as it does, grave problems both in the domestic and international fronts, our country demands that all leaders, irrespective of political affiliation, should seek a common understanding for unified action for the attainment of common objectives. I extend the invitation to the opposition leaders to discuss with me at their earliest convenience the preliminary steps to effect our cooperation."

PRESIDENT Quirino on May 9 authorized the release of another ₱5,000,000 for the development of the abaca industry and ₱1,000,000 for the Government's development program. The funds will be made available by the Central Bank to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to be loaned to private producers of abaca and tobacco, respectively.

PRESIDENT Quirino on May 10 appointed Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. General Romulo is concurrently the chief of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations and president of the General Assembly of that international body. After taking his oath of office before the President and in the presence of high government and consular officials, Secretary Romulo declared: "I am deeply grateful to the President and to the Congress for the opportunity which has been given to me to be of further service to our people. I pray Almighty God that, with the guidance of the President, the cooperation of Congress, and the support of all our people, we may be

able to steer this young Republic through the menacing storm to the haven of general contentment and lasting peace.”

MEANWHILE, the Foreign Affairs Department announced a reshuffle in consular assignments abroad. Consul Benigno Pidlaoan, of the San Francisco consulate general had been transferred to the New York consulate general, while Consul Aurelio Quitoriano of the Honolulu consulate general was detailed to San Francisco to take over the post vacated by Consul Pidlaoan.

PRESIDENT Quirino named the national committee to take charge of the fourth anniversary celebration of the Republic with Secretary Romulo as chairman. The members are Interior Secretary Sotero Baluyut, Labor Secretary Primitivo Lovina, Education Secretary Prudencio Langcaun, Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, Welfare Commissioner Asuncion A. Perez, Maj. Gen. Mariano N. Castaneda, Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos, Mayor Manuel de la Fuente, Aurelio Periquet, Benito Legarda, Dr. Vidal A. Tan, Mrs. Francisca T. Benitez, Mrs. Pilar H. Lim, Exequiel Villacorta, and Vicente Lontok, as Executive Secretary.

A PROCLAMATION binding the Philippines as a full signatory to the Protocol Amending Agreements, Conventions and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs signed on December 11, 1946, at Lake Success, was signed by President Quirino on May 12.

Meanwhile, the President, at the meeting of the Cabinet, expressed the view that “the Government should make it a policy to offer reasonably substantial salaries to persons holding positions of responsibility as a measure to discourage corruption in the service.”

IN the face of grave problems at present, “there is no time for idle or irresponsible talk” declared President Quirino in his 19th radio chat to his people. There is “too much talk but too little constructive work” being done in our country, he said. He offered “an invitation to all the people to examine our present mode of life; to ascertain the state of our farms, our homes, our schools; to see our hospitals, our roads, our bridges, our ports; to review the status of our industries and commerce to assess the strength of our foreign relations,—in short, an honest and conscientious appraisal of the Philippines today—compared to four years ago.”

Making special reference to our national security, our foreign relations, and our economic development, the President emphasized: “I am urging all elements of our people to get together and pull together on these all-important subjects. We cannot afford to be divided by mere partisan feeling or by the venom of ill-wishing which is now poisoning the minds of a great many of our well-meaning citizenry. Our instinct as a nation should be our simple guide to the stark realities of our national position.”

Concluding his chat, he said: “And above the possible clashes of mere personalities at home, we should be able to rise and view our common problems in better perspective. In the period of peril, men have been known to forget purely personal and partisan interests to subserve the well-being of all. We are good Filipinos all and are not less capable of self-effacement and personal sacrifice in the urgent hour of national responsibility and duty.” [*See full text of The President’s radio chat under “HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS” in this issue.*]

THE Cabinet on May 16 defined the status of the Philippine Air Line (PAL), pending the final determination of that status under the government reorganization plan. In the meantime, PAL was placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Office of the President, since it is not included among the government-owned or controlled corporations under the jurisdiction of the Government Enterprises Council. At the same meeting, the Cabinet issued a directive to the Rural Progress Administration governing the disposition of the Buenavista and Tambobong estates. The directive provides: (1) That lands belonging to the Buenavista and Tambobong estates acquired by the Government shall be sold to present *bona fide* tenants or to qualified applicants at the price not higher than the rates heretofore fixed by the RPA; (2) that payments which had been made by tenants during the Japanese occupation shall be validated in accordance with the previous commitments of the Administration; and (3) that tenants who are able to show proof that they have paid fully for the portion of the estates they occupy shall immediately be issued certificates of title for the same.

PRESIDENT Quirino announced May 19 his resettlement program for dissidents who surrender to the Government. They will be afforded all opportunities to obtain economic security under a systematic program. This new policy will be coordinated and implemented by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Social Welfare Commissioner who are empowered to set aside certain public lands in Mindoro and in Mindanao for development as new agricultural, settlements, particularly for the benefit of the landless in the crowded areas of Luzon. Each family will be granted a maximum of 10 hectares for immediate cultivation.

SECRETARY Romulo, speaking at the dedication ceremonies of the replica of the Statue of Liberty in Intramuros, Manila on May 22, declared: "The Statue of Liberty has become a symbol of freedom, tolerance and hospitality for the oppressed of all nations. We take it as a token of friendship, and of a desire to reaffirm and give tangible expression to the abiding ties of mutual respect and esteem that have developed between the American and Filipino peoples out of their close and fruitful association through the eventful decades of the past half century. For this we are grateful, and we reciprocate fully the sentiments that lie behind the gift. Let this statue stand as a reminder of how much we value liberty in this country, how much it cost our people to win it and the price in honest toil and self-sacrifice that we shall have to pay to keep it inviolate for ourselves and the generations of Filipinos who will come after us." The Boy Scouts of America donated the statue.

PRESIDENT Quirino was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the new ₱1,200,000 Philippine Military Academy building at Loakan, Baguio, Mountain Province, May 23. Miss Victoria (Vicky) Quirino, the First Lady, cut the ribbon opening the main entrance to the building. In his extemporaneous speech, the President said that "the new inspiring edifice shall not only be a shrine to the country's security but an ever-vigilant sentinel to the nation's prosperity as well."

SECRETARY Romulo, speaking over station DZFM, May 25, on the eve of the Baguio Conference of 1950, emphasized that "the free states of Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific will consult together on their common economic, political and cultural problems for the first time on governmental level. The conference is a step forward in the movement of Asian nations towards regional association and regional action within the United Nations. It is our task to give impetus and direction to Asia's yearning for peace in the hope that it may ultimately be shared and translated into reality by all the nations of the world." *[See full text of Secretary Romulo's statement under "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in the issue.]*

PRESIDENT Quirino on May 26 delivered the keynote address at the opening session of the Baguio Conference of 1950. He said: "We have the opportunity to contribute as a bigger unit to world advancement, to world peace. It is within us to profit from our common knowledge and experience, to pool our vision and genius and make of our part of the world a new source of world contentment founded on freedom, peace and prosperity. It is within us to banish doubt and fear and to work out a constructive era of economic stability to raise our people's living standards and give them increasing latitude to realize their potentialities. We must rise in strength and dignity." *[See full text of the President's address under "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.]*

SECRETARY of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido L. Mapa was designated on May 29 acting secretary of the newly-created Department of Economic Coordination after Vice-President Lopez had declined the position. The next day, Dr. Jorge C. Bocobo was designated by the President acting chairman of the Integrity Board. Following the oath-taking of Dr. Bocobo and the other members of the Board, the President said that he selected the members because of their "unchallenged reputation and integrity" and because of the high respect that the people hold for them. The members are Justice Mariano H. de Joya, Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo-Lim, and Judge Pompeyo Diaz, as executive secretary.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: June, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino at the Cabinet meeting June 2, directed Secretary of Justice Ricardo Nepomuceno to submit as soon as possible a complete report on the latest status of all investigations involving government officials and minor employees. The President's directive was intended to avoid unnecessary delay in the prosecution of erring government personnel. The President declared that he has already cleared his desk of all investigation reports submitted to him for appropriate action.

SPEAKING before the first national convention of the Lion's Club in Manila, President Quirino warned the nation against "outside forces which are capitalizing on local incidents to promote a systematic campaign to make the Philippines a second China." The President called upon all civic organizations in the country to take active part in counteracting unfavorable propaganda tending to imperil the country's future.

THE "One World" award for international statesmanship was given to Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo by the One World Award Committee on June 3. After receiving the award, Secretary Romulo said: "All my representations in behalf of the Philippines in the United Nations and in other international councils have been directed towards one supreme objective; namely, to help establish world peace based on freedom and justice under which all nations, particularly the small and weak countries, may have an opportunity to develop unhampered by the fear of aggression or the paralyzing effects of the cold war." Previous recipients of similar awards include Albert Einstein and the late Governor Fiorello H. La-Guardia of New York. [See *full text of Secretary Romulo's statement under "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.*]

PRESIDENT Quirino issued a proclamation on June 6 declaring the period from July 12-18, 1950, as "Industrial Peace Week." Commenting on the "peace conference" between labor and capital in this connection, the President declared, "The conference will be an entirely free and voluntary meeting between labor and capital. The Government will have no intervention whatsoever. Labor and management know best the answers to the problems besetting them both. They must provide their solutions".

THE Department of Foreign Affairs announced on June 6 that Minister Bernabe Africa on behalf of the Philippine Government and General Marquardt on behalf of the SCAP, signed the "Trade and Financial Agreements" between the Philippines and SCAP on May 18, 1950, in Tokyo, Japan. Pending ratification of the agreements by the President, concurrence by the Senate and proclamation by the Chief Executive, the provisions of the agreements will serve and operate as *modus vivendi* between the two Governments.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued orders on June 8 ordering all department secretaries and heads of the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, University of the Philippines, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation "to take suitable and effective measures to eliminate or prevent graft and corruption in their respective departments, in order to establish the truth or to disprove current rumors and gossip on the existence of graft in the government service." [See *full text of the President's letter under "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.*]

THE President on June 9 directed the National Power Board to withdraw acceptance of the *Compagnia Generale de Impianti's* offer to furnish machinery and to construct the Maria Cristina hydro-electric power and fertilizer plants, and ordered the opening of these projects to public bidding. The President's action was based on two defects found in the contract; namely, (1) that the price offered by the Italian firm was substantially higher than the original cost estimates compiled by the National Power Corporation; and (2) that the President's prior approval should have been sought before awarding the contract without bidding. However, the President disclosed he found no anomaly in the negotiated contract with the Italian company.

AN increase of ₱22,000,000 in the mineral production of the country for the year 1949 as compared to that of the previous year was reported by Secretary Placido L. Mapa of Agriculture and Natural Resources to President Quirino June 10. He cited figures to show the big strides being made in the rehabilitation of the mining industry, but

emphasized that much greater efforts are still needed to enable the industry to reach pre-war production which run close to ₱100,000,000.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Antonio Villarama announced the selection of the Philippines as the site for the next regional headquarters of the World Health Organization for Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific.

PRESIDENT Quirino, addressing the veterans of the Philippine Revolution gathered at Kawit, Cavite, June 12, issued a stern warning to “foreign elements” who threaten the country’s unity, and at the same time made a vigorous appeal for serious national responsibility. “Those who, wittingly or unwittingly, would deliver themselves to our enemies by encouraging and participating in the campaign to sow demoralization among our people” were the target of the President’s broadside.

PHILIPPINE Minister Jose E. Romero to the Court of St. James, London, had been formally accredited as ministerial envoy to the Norwegian government, the foreign office announced on June 13. He is also concurrently accredited to the Governments of Sweden and Denmark. Romero reported he was “graciously received” by His Majesty King Haakon VII, when he presented his letters of credence in Oslo, Norway, on June 12.

PRESIDENT Quirino conducted an extensive tour of Central Luzon on June 14 to see for himself actual conditions obtaining in the troubled areas. Speaking before the officers and men of the Armed Forces in the field, the President enjoined them “to inspire a feeling of security and peace among the people so that they may go about their work calmly and concentrate their energies to the common task of nation-building.”

THE Philippines won the unanimous vote of 33 member-nations of the International Civil Aviation Organization for a seat in the powerful 21-nation Council of ICAO, the foreign office reported June 14. The election of the Philippines to the council as a Far Eastern member is expected to enhance the position of local civil aviation industry because of the opportunity afforded the Philippines to assume an active role in formulating important policies affecting airline operations, the announcement further said.

PRESIDENT Quirino signed the Price Control Bill (Republic Act No. 509) on June 14, authorizing him to fix, for a limited period, ceiling prices of commodities and to promulgate rules and regulations regarding prices of such commodities. Under the measure, criminal liability and penalty for violations of the Act are provided, particularly for those who sell such commodities in excess of the prices fixed. The creation of a Price Administration Board is also provided in the Act.

THE Council of State decided on June 15 to sell the shares of the Government in the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company to the higher bidder between the Isabela Sugar Company, Inc. and the Binalbagan-Isabela Planters Association, Inc., with the condition that the government shares should not be sold at less than ₱20 per share. Both parties were given 90 days within which to submit their bids. The decision of the Council was based on the policy of the Government to withdraw from any business venture where private enterprise is prepared to take over.

PRESIDENT Quirino in his 20th monthly radio chat, reported on his trip to Central Luzon saying that “what had been regarded heretofore as a troubled spot is now a busy area.” The President’s talk to the nation contained a highly optimistic report on the improved conditions of the troubled areas as he declared that “where there once had been fear and want and dissatisfaction, there is now a feeling of contentment and security.” He appealed to the people to take a more positive outlook in the reconstruction of the country as a step to “build our Republic for permanence and promoting a free and peaceful world.” *[See full text of the President’s radio chat under “HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS” in this issue.]*

STRINGENT measures calculated to eliminate complaints in the issuance of import quotas and licenses, and to insure administrative efficiency in the office of the Import Control Board were adopted during consultations between Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista and ICB representatives headed by Chairman Aurelio Periquet. Henceforth, all applications for import quotas and licenses will be acted upon in the order they are filed with the ICB, and corresponding numbers of all approved applications will be duly publicized by the board. These two rulings, it was indicated, will eliminate bribery in the course of the importers’ transactions with the ICB personnel

and the anomalous practice of the so-called “ten-percenters” who intercede for importers in their application for quotas and licenses.

THE Cabinet on June 20 adopted a resolution requiring department secretaries to pay rental for the use of government-owned cottages in Baguio. The cabinetmen decided to turn over their cottages to the Baguio-dwellings-for-rent revolving fund now administered by the Bureau of Public Works. These cottages will be included in the category of the 35 large cottages and 46 small (Jungle Town) cottages which are being operated on a self-sustaining basis.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet, in the same session, adopted the policy of reducing to a minimum the participation of cabinetmen in government boards to allow them to devote more time to their work in their respective departments.

TO bolster the Administration’s “good government” campaign, the Cabinet on June 23 adopted two important measures; namely, (1) the banning of government personnel from gambling places, cabarets and other places of dissipation, and (2) the elimination of the use of expensive cars and strict enforcement of the regulations limiting the use of official cars to official purposes only. The President in this connection enjoined all department secretaries to take immediate steps for the implementation of the two measures.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued a proclamation on June 24, ratifying and confirming the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, subject to certain reservations. With this proclamation, the Philippines formally adheres to the United Nations agreement outlawing the crime of mass extermination of human lives. The convention was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1948, and concurred in by the Senate of the Philippines on February 28, 1950.

IN order to ameliorate the lot of the masses, increase the nation’s potential, and at the same time to permanently solve the peace and order problem in Central Luzon, the President on June 25 disclosed to the Cabinet the Government’s intention of breaking more lands in Mindanao and in other virgin areas throughout the country for eventual development and ownership by farmers with the active assistance of the Government through the Rice and Corn Production Administration, the National Land Settlement Administration, and the Rural Progress Administration. The project calls for the intensification of mechanized farming; establishment of supervised and guided settlements exclusively for dissidents surrendering to the Government; and encouragement of the present voluntary influx of settlers to Mindanao.

MEMBERS of the newly-created Price Administration Board were sworn in by the President on June 26. Inducted into office were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, chairman; PRATRA Manager Ildefonso Coscolluela, vice-chairman, and Ramon Araneta, member. Another member, Luis Lichauco, who was out of town could not take his oath. Pedro Fernandez, general vice president of the Union de Estivadores de Filipinas, another member, represents consumers and labor unions.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued three proclamations on June 29 reserving wide tracts of land in Bukidnon, Cotabato and Palawan for rice and corn and other food production purposes. In Bukidnon, 38,309 hectares are reserved; in Cotabato, 103,286 hectares; and in Palawan, 25,380 hectares.

MEASURES for civilian protection in case of emergency were informally discussed by President Quirino with top government officials on June 30. The national emergency organization in this connection will develop closer liaison between the civilian agencies and the regional military commands. Another new feature of the CEA is the establishment of community councils which will handle all civilian security measures for their respective communities. These councils will incorporate the good features of the civilian defense systems adopted during wartime in many countries as well as those of the neighborhood associations during the occupation. The proposed CEA will be directed by a civilian defense commission which will have control of various phases of essential wartime activities including food control, communications and transportation, information and propaganda, fuel, and air raid precautions.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: July 1, 1950

The President signed on July 1 Executive Order No. 456, creating the Import Control Commission composed of Alfredo Montelibano, chairman, and Alfonso Calalang and Francisco Ortigas, members, to assist the President in the execution of Republic Act No. 650 for the regulation of imports into the Philippines. The next day Malacañan announced the appointment of Demetrio Santos, import control commissioner of the defunct ICA, as executive officer of the Import Control Commission. The President also signed Administrative Order No. 159, prescribing the policies, rules, and regulations for the enforcement of import controls.

President's Month in Review: July 2, 1950

On July 2, the President sounded a general appeal for peaceful and orderly elections and urged provincial executive committees of all political parties to hold conventions to nominate men who could best serve the interest of the country during this period of economic development, in addressing a large delegation of Batangas political leaders who paid a courtesy call at Malacañan. President Quirino approved on the same day the dismissal for hazing, of four cadets from the Philippine Military Academy.

President's Month in Review: July 3, 1950

Early in the morning of July 3, the President left Malacañan to attend the traditional annual parade and review of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Fort McKinley in honor of the commander-in-chief. The President paid glowing tribute to officers and men of the AFP for having restored peace and order in major portions of the country and for having shown to the world that democracy works in this part of the world.

Before noon of July 3, the President administered the oaths of office to the members of the newly-created Import Control Commission and its executive officer. In the afternoon, the Chief Executive was host to the Fifth Women's Civic Assembly at a tea party held at Malacañan park on the occasion of the awarding of medals of merit to seven outstanding citizens "who make (Filipino) life better and richer." The President told the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines that the awards of the merit given to the meritorious citizens of the land embodies the "high estimations of this country" for its meritorious citizens.

President's Month in Review: July 4, 1950

The ceremony in connection with the pinning of 51 stars on the presidential flag took place in the Malacañan Palace ceremonial hall in the morning of July 4. The solemn act symbolized the solidarity and the support of each of the 51 provinces of the Philippines to the Republic, the President explained at the start of the ceremony. The President was the recipient that day of many congratulatory messages to the Filipino people from various rulers of democratic countries on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Republic.

Speaking before 200,000 people who witnessed the parade on the Luneta in the afternoon, the President said that "we can now tell the world that in the first five years of its life, our Republic has successfully stood the doubts of its bystanders and the untruths of its enemies," because of the intrinsic integrity of the nation. In the evening the President gave a state dinner at the Malacañan Palace.

President's Month in Review: July 5, 1950

The President ordered Director Jose P. Dans of the Bureau of Lands on July 5 to rush the subdivision work on landed estates purchased by the Government for distribution to tenants to implement the land-for-the-landless program of the Government. The order was given during the President's visit to the agricultural exhibits at the agriculture building on Taft Avenue.

President's Month in Review: July 6, 1950

In a stirring address keynoting the meeting of the National Committee of the Liberal Party held at the Malacañan park on July 6, the President called on his party men to deliver ourselves to that all consuming thought of putting the interest of the country above personal ambitions so that this nation can be stronger and happier. In the Cabinet meeting held in the evening, the President took steps to discourage Moros in Mindanao from making their annual pilgrimage to Mecca this year. The cabinet decided to do away with the practice of engaging one-peso a year men in the government and to have the old Botanical Garden restored. The Cabinet also approved the plan to construct a boulevard that would connect the Luneta grandstand with the Ayala Boulevard.

President's Month in Review: July 7, 1950

At the final conference of the representatives of labor and management at the recreation hall of the Malacañan park on July 7, the President pledged himself anew to the cause of labor, saying that if any wrong or injustice is committed against laborers, he will be their greatest champion and defender. Calling on labor to contribute to the economic growth and development of the country, President Quirino expressed the hope that troubles arising between labor and management be avoided as much as possible while the country is concentrating its attention to the tremendous task of nation-building. On the same day, the President removed from office Director of Labor Felipe Jose in accordance with the recommendation of the Integrity Board.

President's Month in Review: July 9, 1950

On July 9, the President approved the release of 9,107,775 pesos for the operation and maintenance of the existing elementary classes in Negros Occidental, Quezon, and Sorsogon, acting upon the recommendation of Education Secretary Teodoro Evangelista. On the same day, the President suspended Councilor Amado Hernandez of Manila pending final disposition of the criminal case filed against him in the Manila courts.

President's Month in Review: July 10, 1950

July 10 became memorable because of two significant events—it marked the dedication of the United Nations Plaza at Wallace Field in the morning and the opening of the MacArthur Bridge in the afternoon. On both occasions, Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez represented the President. She raised the Philippine flag at the flag ceremony during the morning affair and cut the ceremonial ribbon at the west lane of the bridge during the afternoon ceremony.

On the same day, the President had a long conference with William Allen, chief of the ECA mission to the Philippines; Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno; and Chairman Jose Yulo of PHILCUSA to take up among other things the distribution of fertilizers expected to arrive on the weekend from abroad under the ECA aid program.

In the evening, tired and exhausted because of the series of conferences he had during the day with officials of the ECA and the newly created Import Control Commission and provincial governors, the President designated Vice President Lopez to represent him at the traditional reception given at Malacañan in honor of diplomatic and consular corps in Manila.

President's Month in Review: July 11, 1950

The President did not receive any visitor on July 11, as he cleared his desk of a backlog of pending state papers which had accumulated during the past week because of his schedule of engagements in connection with the observation of Independence Day and Achievement Week. He also started to study on that day the draft of the Japanese treaty as released by Washington.

President's Month in Review: July 12, 1950

On July 12, the President conferred with Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo for an hour to discuss further the new Japanese peace treaty in preparation for consultation with the 15-man committee scheduled to meet the next day at the Manila Hotel. The President had his first conference with Secretary Romulo on the peace treaty in preparation for consultation with the 15-man committee scheduled to meet the next day at the Manila Hotel. The President had his first conference with Secretary Romulo on the peace treaty on July 10. Earlier in the morning, the President conferred with Economic Administrator Salvador Araneta over the organization of the NARIC and the establishment of a Sugar Institute of the Philippines as provided in one of the new laws passed during the last session of the Congress.

President's Month in Review: July 13, 1950

The President's Peace Treaty Committee met on July 13 to discuss in detail the revised peace treaty draft as submitted to the Philippine government. It was decided that a new sub-committee of six be appointed to meet the next day and submit its report to the plenary committee on July 16. During the Cabinet meeting held in the evening of July 13, the President created an interdepartmental committee on cottage industries to speed up the country's industrialization. The President also signed a proclamation fixing the value of the Argentine peso at P0.40 Philippine currency.

President's Month in Review: July 14, 1950

The President vigorously reasserted on July 14 the Philippine right to demand reparations from Japan, saying that this country was not asking for its "pound of flesh" but merely for the right of an innocent people to expect some kind of satisfaction for the spiritual and material ravages wrought on them by the last war. This reassertion was made by the President in an extemporaneous speech before a large crowd gathered at the turn over ceremony of the newly reconstructed Tonsuya bridge, renamed after the President, in Malabon, Rizal.

President's Month in Review: July 15, 1950

In his 33rd monthly radio chat on July 15, the President reaffirmed his strong opposition to the draft of the proposed Japanese peace treaty and declared that the Philippines cannot be a party to a transaction which insures all possible assistance to an aggressor.

President's Month in Review: July 17, 1950

The Council of State, the highest advisory body of the Government, unanimously approved on July 17 the stand taken by the President and his 15-man committee against the acceptance of the latest draft of the Japanese peace treaty. In the meantime, opposition to the peace treaty draft continued to mount as indicated by the telegrams received the last two days from various groups in the country branding the U.S. draft of the treaty as "unfair and unjust" to the Philippines.

President's Month in Review: July 19, 1950

The President pressed for the realization of his original idea of a Pacific Pact in an after-luncheon speech that he made on July 19 in honoring at Malacañan Governor Thomas Dewey of New York. Governor Dewey in his response, agreed with President Quirino and pledged his support to have it carried out. He also paid tribute to the manner the Philippine government rehabilitated the country which attracted world attention.

On the same day, the President named five ad interim members of the board of directors of the Philippine Sugar Institute; namely, J. Amado Araneta, Oscar Ledesma, Manuel Elizalde, Ernesto Santos, and Jose L. Manzano.

President's Month in Review: July 20, 1950

The President on July 20 authorized the Collector of Internal Revenue to make public the contents of the income tax returns for 1950 of all members of the Cabinet. In an earlier precedent-setting decision, the President granted permission to the Collector of Internal Revenue to bare his (the President's) own income tax returns which revealed that the President paid income tax on the salary as Chief Executive despite the fact that he could claim exemption.

President's Month in Review: July 21, 1950

The President received on July 21 from the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines a strong protest against the latest draft of the Japanese peace treaty, stating that it "does not express the Filipino sentiments nor the expression of the free nations of the world that brought about the United Nations." On the same day, the President signed Executive Order No. 459 lifting the control on the prices of all kinds of wheat flour.

President's Month in Review: July 24, 1950

The board of directors of the newly-revived National Rice and Corn Corporation met on July 24 and took up the reorganization of the NARIC in accordance with the new law recreating the corporation. The board also approved the importation of 25,000 tons of rice from Siam to bolster the local supply of this staple commodity.

The 15-man peace treaty committee, after listening to the report of Foreign Secretary Romulo on the status of the conversation between Manila and Washington, agreed unanimously to insist on its original stand that the draft of the treaty in its present form is unacceptable, it was announced at Malacañan on July 25.

President's Month in Review: July 25, 1950

The President authorized on July 25 the release of public works funds amounting to P825,000 for the construction and repair of public roads and bridges in different parts of the country. He also declared August 20, 1951, a special public holiday in honor of the late President Manuel L. Quezon whose 73rd birthday anniversary falls on Sunday, August 19.

President's Month in Review: July 26, 1950

On July 26, the President approved the supplemental special budget of P9 million of the Bureau of Public Works for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of national and provincial roads and bridges as well as the streets and bridges as well as the streets and bridges of chartered cities. This amount is chargeable against the high ways special fund which is from the proceeds of tax on motor fuels.

President's Month in Review: July 27, 1950

For the first time the Cabinet held its meeting in the kiosk of the Presidents country home in Novaliches, Rizal, on July 27. It was Secretary Romulo who suggested the holding of the meeting in Novaliches, according to the President in his opening remarks. The Cabinet approved in that meeting the maintenance of elements in the Armed Forces of the Philippines for service as a United Nations unit. The President, also during that Cabinet meeting, signed Executive Orders Nos. 460 and 461, fixing the ceiling prices of imported essential commodities.

President's Month in Review: July 28, 1950

The President on July 28 fired Bernardo Bagamasbad, provincial treasurer of Cotabato, for the huge losses suffered by the Philippine National Bank in special crop loans he granted to unqualified and insolvent borrowers when he was ex officio agent of the PNB in that province.

President's Month in Review: July 29, 1950

In an extemporaneous speech delivered after the luncheon given by the YLAC on July 29 at the Malacañan park recreation hall in honor of the President, the Chief Executive called on the members of the Young Ladies Association of Charity and the women of the Philippines to exert their influence in helping purify the holding of elections in November. The President also thanked the YLAC for presenting him with a plaque of gratitude.

President's Month in Review: July 30, 1950

The President conferred on July 30 with members of the Commission on Elections for the purpose of coordinating various agencies of the Government in the maintenance of clean, honest, and orderly elections. On the same day, the President approved the release of P1,888,825 to be allotted to the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation and the NDC for the construction of ocean-going vessels. Of the amount, P600,000 is for the NASSCO for the shipyard and graving dock, and P1,288,825, for the construction of ocean-going vessels of the NDC. The amount represents the proceeds of the sale of floating bonds by the Central Bank for industrial development of the country.

President's Month in Review: July 31, 1950

Addressing the provincial governors and city mayors and their seminar at the Council of State room on July 31, the President said that "whether we sign a treaty or not, we will send a delegation to that conference (in San Francisco) to make known to the world the wishes of the Filipino people on the Japanese peace treaty." The President emphasized the necessity of adopting a solid stand on two matters affecting the country's security; namely, the Japanese peace treaty and the projected Pacific Pact. By unanimous vote, on the same day, the provincial governors and mayors of chartered cities approved a resolution expressing their unqualified endorsement of the stand taken by the President of the Philippines on the provisions of the Japanese peace treaty, particularly on the question of reparations and national security, and approval of the steps taken by the President to enter into a mutual defense Pacific Pact. The resolution was passed after the governors and mayors assembled heard President Quirino and Secretary Romulo speak on the security of the state and the stability of the nation on that first day of their seminar on these questions.

President's Month in Review: August, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino on August 1 received a six-man committee from both houses of the Congress, who officially informed him of the opening of the special ten-day Congressional session.

On the same day the President, accompanied by Vice-President Fernando Lopez and members of the Cabinet, motored to the North Cemetery to pay homage to the late President Quezon, on his sixth death anniversary. The President also visited the tombs of the late President Manuel Roxas and that of Mrs. Aurora Aragon-Quezon.

In the afternoon, the President delivered his message before the special session of Congress at the Legislative building. [.See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's message.*]

PRESIDENT Quirino paid tribute to the work of the Y.M.C.A. in the Philippines in building up the Filipino youth for clean thinking and living during a luncheon in Malacahan on August 2 in honor of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Turner. Turner founded the Y.M.C.A. in the Philippines and led its activities in the past 40 years.

SPEAKING briefly during the ceremony at the newly rehabilitated Pier 13, after he had received from U. S. Ambassador Myron M. Cowen the document formally transferring the pier to the Philippine government on August 3, President Quirino renewed the pledge of the Filipino people "to fight for democracy and freedom on the side of the United States and the other United Nations." The President said that more than the physical value of Pier 13 to the Philippines is the "moral value" in terms of American goodwill and friendship which will leave a permanent heritage to our people."

SECRETARY of Education Prudencio Langcauon opened on August 3, the first of a series of broadcasts entitled, "The Government Reports," sponsored by Malacañan's Office of Public Information in cooperation with Station DZFM. The government report series are broadcast on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. with Department secretaries and key personnel of the government as speakers.

DURING its meeting on August 4, the Cabinet ruled that alien flour importers who have been in the business for a long time should not be discriminated against and should be given a fair share of the trade. The Cabinet made it clear, however, that the P.R.A.T.R.A. would be acting in consonance with the national policy if Filipino businessmen were given preferences in the allocation of new flour quotas.

A DIRECTIVE was issued by the President on August 4 requiring all property throughout the country to be reassessed as close as possible to actual market value for tax-levying purposes. It was estimated that revenue from real property taxes after reassessment would double or treble collections under the old assessment values.

THE President honored with a luncheon Randolph Churchill, son of the A British wartime Prime Minister of England, on August 5. Young Churchill visited Manila on his way to Korea as a war correspondent. The next day the President took time out of his official duties and motored to Barrio Bayanbayan, some 30 kilometers east of Manila, to visit the orphan-inmates of Boys Town.

ON August 8, the President issued Administrative Order No. 129 creating a committee composed of the Secretary of Finance as chairman, and the Auditor General and the Budget Commissioner as members, to screen and process all papers affecting the release of lump sums for special purposes.

IN the Cabinet meeting held on August 8, measures affecting the country's preparedness for emergency were adopted, namely: (1) Favorable recommendation to Congress of a legislation to increase from ₱1,000 to ₱3,000 the amount payable by the Government to heirs of enlisted men in the Armed Forces who might be killed in line of duty; (2) The requirement that shipment of abaca to foreign countries be subject to approval by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in order to prevent this war-critical material from being shipped to unfriendly

countries; and (3) The waiving of certain technicalities in order to permit the United States government immediately to expand its airbase at Clark Field.

The Cabinet, moreover, decided in that meeting to direct the departments concerned to intensify the campaign against illegal slaughter of work animals.

THE anniversary of the First Cry of Balintawak, August 26 this year, was proclaimed as a special public holiday by President Quirino on August 9. President Quezon's birthday anniversary which falls on August 19 was also proclaimed a special holiday in a separate proclamation signed August 10.

THE right of claimants to property seized or the proceeds arising from the sale thereof by the Philippine Alien Property Administrator do not include relief for damages, if the property seized is non-income producing or if the property was converted into money but was left uninvested, according to the ruling handed down by Undersecretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon on August 10, citing as basis of his opinion the "Trading with the Enemy Act" of 1917, particularly section 9 (a) thereof.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued on August 9, Executive Order No. 340 promulgating rules and regulations for the organization and training of Civilian Emergency Administration guards. Under the order, the mayor of each chartered city, municipality and municipal district shall organize C.E.A. guards in his respective jurisdiction. The C.E.A. guards shall serve without compensation. They shall however be entitled to free transportation in the performance of their duties and to free subsistence during periods of active service if food for the purpose are available in the city of municipality where they serve.

THE right of the Government to examine the books of charitable institutions and to impose taxes on their profits was upheld in an opinion handed down on August 9 by the Department of Justice. Charitable institutions are placed in the same category as educational institutions in that their incomes above the amount on which they used to operate their institutions are now liable to income tax under this ruling.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued two executive orders on August 14. Executive Order No. 342 authorizes the Price Administration Board to fix the ceiling prices for the different provinces by adding the transportation and handling charges to the basic ceiling prices for Manila and suburbs, and in accordance with the prescribed zones. Executive Order No. 343 sets ceiling prices for prime commodities such as powdered milk, coffee, tea, canned goods and certain building materials.

THE President addressed a communication to the Congress on August 14 certifying to the urgency of enacting the supplementary appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1950-1951, totaling ₱96,800,535. The supplementary appropriation bill calls for an outlay of ₱86,790,535 for ordinary expenses and ₱10,010,000 for extraordinary expenditures.

GEN. Douglas MacArthur's message was received at Malacañan on August 14 thanking President Quirino for putting the Philippine expeditionary force to Korea at the disposal of the U.N. commander. General MacArthur's radiogram was an acknowledgment of President Quirino's message on August 10 advising the General that Congress had passed a concurrent resolution in favor of rendering every possible assistance to the U.N. forces in Korea and informing him that a Filipino regimental combat team consisting of 5,000 officers and men were being placed at his disposal.

THE Council of State on August 15 approved in principle several immediate and long-term economic measures to strengthen the government's fiscal position. The immediate economy measures include: (1) Further reduction, whenever possible, of government personnel to be carried out under the government reorganization scheme; (2) Utilization of personnel already in the government payroll for service in entities that may be organized as a result of the emergency, such as the Civilian Emergency Administration; and (3) Possible reduction in the outlay for the Bureau of Public Schools through slight increase in the maximum number of pupils in class.

IN the Cabinet meeting of August 18, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Placido L. Mapa was authorized to make available 7,000 cavans of palay for distribution to farmers of Central Luzon to replace the crops damaged during the recent floods.

TN a message issued on August 18 in commemoration of President Quezon's birthday, President Quirino said: "As we honor President Quezon, let us renew our pledge to carry on the great work which he auspiciously began, and reaffirm our devotion to the ideals of social justice and nationalism which he left as a legacy to our people."

AS a part of the year's observance of the 72nd birthday anniversary of the late President Quezon, the new Quezon museum of the rehabilitated National Library in the Legislative building was formally opened by President Quirino about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of August 19. The Quezoniana was formerly housed on the first floor of Malacañan Palace.

In the morning of the same day, the President delivered an extemporaneous speech at the Sunken Garden on the occasion of the cornerstone-laying ceremonies of the Roxas Liberty Park. In his speech the President called for a more intelligent and judicious exercise of the freedom of speech and renewed his appeal for national unity in the face of unsettled world conditions.

A REPORT containing 34 recommendations, including the consolidation of several government-owned and controlled corporations was submitted to the President during the Cabinet meeting on August 22, by Secretary Placido L. Mapa, in his capacity as acting head of the Department of Economic Coordination. Highlights of the recommendations include reduction of government enterprises from the present 24 to 16 corporations; the encouragement of private enterprise in the development of the country's resources, with the government assisting only in the financing of the projects; and the organization of development banks in rural areas.

During this Cabinet meeting the President ordered swift action in the prosecution of the parties responsible for the shooting affray in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, the previous week. The President also took occasion to counsel his Department Secretaries against being swayed by what appeared to be a form of hysteria in the matter of taking administrative action against government officials and employees suspected of irregularities.

FOLLOWING a brief conference with members of the Import Control Board A on August 22, the President ordered the revision of procedures in the import control office so as to give the Import Control Commissioner wider discretion to act on import control license applications.

THE newly-constructed ₱300,000 edifice which will house the Children's T.B. Pavilion at the Quezon Institute of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society is one of the evidences of America's generosity to the Filipino people, President Quirino declared at the inauguration ceremonies that marked the turning over of the new building by War Damage Commissioner Frank C. Waring, on behalf of the U. S. Government, to the Philippine Government.

THE President appointed on August 28 the new members of the Board of Mechanical Engineers Examination. Those appointed were: Marciano S Angeles, chairman; and Celso L. Preclaro and Teodoro T. Bacani, members. IMMEDIATE release of ₱5 million for the rehabilitation of the mining industry as a means of boosting the nation's dollar income was recommended to President Quirino on August 28 by the National Economic Council. The N.E.C.'s recommendation came following receipt of requests for financial aid from war-ravaged mining concerns in the country. According to the recommendation, the ₱5 million would be allocated from the balance of the ₱200 million earmarked by the Central Bank for self-liquidating productive projects.

PRESIDENT Quirino shortly before noon on August 29, administered the oath of office to Undersecretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon as acting secretary of justice. Also inducted in the Council of State room in Malacañan were Judge Felipe Natividad and Judge Felix Martinez as associate justices of the Court of Appeals.

PRESIDENT Quirino devoted practically the entire Cabinet meeting on August 29 to informing his Cabinet of the new measures he was taking to solve the peace and order problem. The new program, it was understood, envisages a nation-wide movement to harness the country's resources in order to crush outlawry once and for all. The President

directed that the nature of the new program be withheld from publication until all the important details are put in final shape and until the implementation of the program is well under way.

PRESIDENT Quirino approved on August 30 the retirement of 24 officers from the active service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as recommended by Secretary of National Defense Ruperto K. Kangleon, pursuant to the provisions of section 1 (b) of Republic Act No. 340, which provides for compulsory retirement upon the completion of at least 30 years continuous satisfactory service or upon attaining 60 years of age with a minimum of 15 years continuous active service.

IN a radio address on August 30, the President appealed to the people to rally to the Government and unite to protect, their homes, their families, the schools for their children, the hospitals for the sick, and the churches where they worship. The President urged the people to unite and form batallions of peace—community assemblies, neighborhood associations, and barangays for peace.*[See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS in this issue.]*

ON August 31 five tax measures passed during the extended special session of Congress were signed by the President. They were House Bills Nos. 814, 868, 902, 1141 and 1363 which became Republic Acts Nos. 566, 567, 568, 569, and 570, respectively.

One of the Presidential callers on August 31 was F. Byrne Austin, executive director of the U. S. War Claims Commission who arrived from Washington recently to set up a claims office here for Filipino soldiers confined by the Japanese as prisoners of war. Mr. Austin disclosed that Filipino war prisoners will receive \$1 for each day spent in Japanese concentration camps. Deadline for filing claims is March 1, 1951.

President Quirino Thursday night, August 31, accepted Secretary Ruperto K. Kangleon's resignation and simultaneously announced the appointment of Congressman Ramon Magsaysay to the Defense portfolio.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: September, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

A NEW height in executive-legislative amity marked the tri-purpose luncheon which President Quirino tendered in Malacañan, September 1, in honor of the members of the various delegations to international conferences. The luncheon served at the same time as a farewell get-together in honor of former Secretary of National Defense Ruperto K. Kangleon and as a welcome to the newly inducted Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay.

IN the morning of September 2 the President delivered the principal address at the Jaycee-sponsored send-off rally in honor of the Philippine expeditionary force to Korea at the Rizal Memorial football stadium. The President told the officers and men of the 10th Battalion Combat Team: "Conjointly with the heroic armies of our allies, you will march under the flag of the United Nations. Thus, your battle will be not only for the security of your own people, your own families, but for that of all free men, everywhere on earth, who yearn for peace—but who know that without liberty there can be no peace." Then in an impassioned farewell speech delivered at Camp Murphy on September 9, the President spurred the officers and men of the 10th Battalion Combat Team to crush the enemy in Korea to prevent it from reaching Philippine shores. [*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President's speeches.*]

ON September 4 President Quirino designated Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri as acting secretary during the absence of Secretary Romulo who left to attend the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

THE creation of a National Peace Fund Commission, with Vice-President Fernando Lopez as chairman and Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., as vice-chairman and treasurer, was announced by President Quirino during the Cabinet meeting on September 5. Executive Order No. 345 creating the Commission was signed on September 19.

IN the cabinet meeting on September 8, the Cabinet concurred in the President's directive to dispose of the N.D.C. subsidiaries which may be competing with private enterprise. The directive was issued close on the heels of a cabinet order on September 5 to revise the executive order on the establishment of the P.R.A.T.R.A. in order to eliminate activities that compete with private enterprise.

WITH cabinet concurrence in the same meeting of September 8, the President ruled that old tenants of the government-owned Tambobong estate should pay only rates provided in the original contract entered into between them and the Government.

IN a heart-to-heart talk with immigration personnel during his surprise visit at the immigration office on September 11, the President advised the employees to be courteous and helpful in their dealings with the public, particularly with visiting foreigners. In the course of this visit, the President administered the oath of office to Judge Pompeyo Diaz as the new immigration commissioner, succeeding Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon who relinquished the post as acting immigration commissioner before his appointment to the justice portfolio. From the immigration office, the President proceeded to Intramuros for a surprise visit to the Central Bank.

ADDRESSING a large delegation composed of representatives of various veteran organizations in the country which called at Malacañan to witness the signing of the veterans benefit bill on September 12, the President appealed to all veterans organizations to help the Government eliminate dangers to the democratic institutions of the country. "Contribute your bit now. Tomorrow may be too late," the President warned.

DURING the Cabinet meeting September 12, the President ordered the prompt distributions of public agricultural lands as a means of intensifying the government's food production campaign. The Cabinet also decided to dispose of the government-owned Bago-Iñigo estate in Davao like any public land and denied the request of its former owners to be given preference to reacquire the property.

ON September 14, President Quirino inducted five new cabinet members before a record crowd at the Malacañan social hall. The new cabinet members inducted were: Vice-President Fernando Lopez, secretary of agriculture and natural resources; Jose P. Bengzon, secretary of justice; Pablo Lorenzo, secretary of education; Dr. Juan C. Salcedo, Jr., secretary of health; and Salvador Araneta, secretary of economic coordination. Placido L. Mapa, outgoing secretary of agriculture and natural resources, was also inducted chairman of the R.F.C. board of governors, vice Delfin Buencamino who retired.

THE abolition of the Philippine Shipping Administration and the liquidation of its assets by the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation was considered by the Council of State on September 15, in line with President Quirino's policy of streamlining the Government. The Council also considered the release of 50 hectares in Culion for mining purposes, as recommended by the Bureau of Mines.

IN his 23rd monthly radio chat broadcast on September 15, the President took occasion to explain the main objective of the formation of "barangay" associations, to serve not only as a civilian defense against "the treacherous hand that strike in the dark" but also as the basic civic units to promote community welfare. "We are not organizing an armed private army," the President pointed out. "All armed action that may be involved in our campaign for peace will be undertaken by the authorized armed forces of the country."

ON this same day, the President signed four more bills passed during the last special session of Congress: Republic Act No. 578, amending the Alien Registration Act of 1950; Republic Act No. 581, amending the Pension Act; Republic Act No. 579, amending the rates of schedules of estate and inheritance taxes, and the Home Financing Act which would enable low-income families to acquire home lots and build their own homes.

ON September 18, the President approved four more bills passed by Congress during the special session: Republic Act No. 583, better known as the Small Farmer's Loan Fund; Republic Act No. 585 which puts teeth to the Residence Tax Law; Republic Act No. 582, authorizing the President to make disbursement from the Sugar Adjustment and Stabilization Fund created by Commonwealth Act No. 567; and Republic Act No. 584, providing greater penalties and higher fines for violations of the Radio Control Law.

PRESIDENT Quirino had a half-hour conference with ranking members of the U. S. Military Defense Assistance Program survey team, headed by John F. Melby, on September 18. The group, now on the fourth leg of their fact-finding tour of Southeast Asian countries expect to stay in the Philippines about two weeks to review the military situation in this country and determine the extent of aid to be given here to enable it to check effectively the spread of communism in this area.

Following the conference, the President administered the oath of office to Placido L. Mapa as acting secretary of finance in the absence of Secretary Pedrosa who left to attend the Tariff and Trade conference in Torquay, England.

AT the cabinet meeting on September 19, the President directed Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon to expedite the trial of government officials facing various charges of graft and corruption in the city and provincial courts.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 345, creating a Peace Fund Commission to raise funds through nation-wide voluntary contributions to finance an all-out drive for the maintenance of peace and order was issued by the President on September 19. The Commission is to be composed of 23 members with Vice-President Fernando Lopez as chairman and Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., as vice-chairman and treasurer. All the suggestions and recommendations of the Nacionalista Party leaders are embodied in the set of rules and regulations submitted for adoption of the commission. The President postponed the signing of Executive Order No. 347 on the "barangay" associations until September 22, because he wanted to know the reaction of the Nacionalista Party leaders to whom he submitted the draft on September 20.

ON September 21, the President gave an informal dinner at Malacañan in honor of General George C. Kenney, commanding general of the Air University at Maxwell Field, Alabama. In his brief remarks during the occasion, the President pledged continued friendship of the people of the Philippines to the American people.

ON this same day, the President inducted Prospero Sanidad as manager of the Manila Railroad Company, and Interior Secretary Sotero Baluyut as acting secretary of public works and communications.

THE last five of the 27 bills passed during the extended special session of Congress were signed by the President on September 22. All five bills are tax-increasing measures. They are: Republic Act No. 587, amending the Motor Vehicles Law; Republic Act No. 586, imposing a tax on every winning bet in horse races or the Jai Alai; Republic Act No. 588, increasing the sales tax on articles classified as luxuries; Republic Act No. 589, increasing the rates of specific taxes on distilled spirits, cigars, playing cards, etc.; and Republic Act No. 590, increasing the rates of income tax.

On the same day, the President appointed Col. Florencio Selga, former commanding officer of the second military area, AFP, as deputy chief of staff of the Philippine Constabulary, succeeding Col. Margarito Torralba, retired. In a brief talk following the induction of Colonel Selga as deputy chief, the President reiterated his policy of attraction to win the cooperation of the people against dissidents.

THE prompt abolition of civilian guards and temporary police and the immediate dismissal of Constabulary officers and men responsible for giving the organization a bad name was ordered by the President on September 23. The President also abolished on the same day the Philippine Shipping Administration in line with the government reorganization program. Executive Order No. 346 transfers to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation the powers and functions of the abolished office.

Vice-President Fernando Lopez, concurrently secretary of agriculture and natural resources, was sworn in by President Quirino on September 27 as chairman of the board of directors of the National Development Company.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: October, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino appointed on October 3 Internal Revenue Collector Bibiano L. Meer as undersecretary of commerce and industry, and Saturnino David, provincial treasurer of Batangas, as collector of internal revenue to succeed Meer. The President also appointed the following officials: Alfredo Jacinto as commissioner of customs, Melecio Fabros as deputy commissioner of customs, and Silverio Blaquera as deputy collector of internal revenue.

In compliance with the cabinet decision to withdraw car privileges from department secretaries and undersecretaries, a total of 16 official cars were turned over to Budget Commissioner Pio Joven at the Malacañan grounds immediately after the cabinet meeting on October 3. These cars would be offered for sale to their former holders or to the public, Joven said, through a committee composed of representatives from the public works department, the auditing office and the budget commissioner as chairman.

Executive Order No. 350, creating the Price Stabilization Corporation and dissolving the PRATRA and the NARIC was issued by the President on October 3.

ON October 5 the President administered the oaths of office to the following: Bibiano Meer, undersecretary of commerce; Alfredo Jacinto, commissioner of customs; Saturnino David, collector of internal revenue; and Silverio Blaquera, deputy collector of internal revenue. Also inducted were Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda as chairman of the Price Stabilization Corporation and the following as members: Delfin Buencamino, Aurelio Montinola, Ramon del Rosario, Daniel Aguinaldo, and Juan Cojuangco. Modesto Farolan, another PRISCO member, took his oath of office earlier in the morning before Secretary Teodoro Evangelista.

In the afternoon of the same day, the President issued an executive order authorizing the chairman of the ICB to act as import control commissioner "in case of incapacity, absence or inability" of the commissioner. Commissioner Guillermo Gomez had applied for an indefinite leave of absence effective on that day.

SENATOR Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., president of the Nationalista Party, formally accepted on October 6 President Quirino's offer to make him vice-chairman and treasurer of the Peace Fund Commission.

President Quirino appointed on October 6 Justice Fernando Jugo of the Court of Appeals and Solicitor General Felix Angelo Bautista as associate justices of the Supreme Court, vice Justice Roman Ozaeta, resigned, and Justice Luis P. Torres, retired.

On the same day the President issued Administrative Order No. 133, creating a three-man committee to investigate and expedite the settlement of all outstanding accounts between various government entities.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 352, increasing and fixing new ceiling prices for Hill Bros, and Mello-Cup coffee, pork and beans, and enriched flour, and Executive Order No. 353, pegging the prices of certain imported foodstuffs, local construction materials, imported shoe materials and textiles were issued by the President on October 7.

AS principal speaker in the ceremonies at the opening of the "Congreso de Hispanistas" at Centro Escolar University, Monday evening, October 9, President Quirino disclosed that the Philippines will lead the fight for the admittance of Spain into the United Nations and that Secretary Carlos R Romulo had been instructed to file a resolution along this line. After coming from the Centro Escolar University, the President assured about 300 workers of government-owned corporations who called at Malacañan that they would not lose their jobs as a result of the government's decision to sell these corporations, as the administration would make it a condition that the workers would be absorbed by purchasing private firms or individuals.

IN his 24th monthly radio chat broadcast from the Guest House in Baguio on October 10, the President called upon the Filipino people "to respond to the challenge of our national needs" by uniting now in the fight against

communism or face destruction. The President said, "Our country is still in grave peril from, within and without," necessitating an "all-out offensive against the enemies of our freedom and security" and a stop to "unnecessary, unelevating, and useless bickerings." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for *full text of the President's radio chat.*]

Speaking at noon of the same day at the opening of the National Confederation of Trade Unions convention in Baguio, the President declared that every Filipino should contribute his share towards creating a favorable atmosphere to enable the full implementation of the Bell recommendations. The President deplored the activities of certain elements who, he said, are trying to discredit the country in the eyes of the world.

THE President administered the oaths of office to the following ranking government officials on October 20: Fernando Jugo and Felix Angelo Bautista as associate justices of the supreme court, Alejo Labrador and Emilio Peña as presiding justice and associate justice, respectively, of the court of appeals; Pompeyo Diaz as solicitor general; Faustino Sy-Changco as import control commissioner; and Vicente de la Cruz as immigration commissioner.

PROCLAMATION No. 210, suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* for "persons detained or who may be hereafter detained for the crimes of sedition, insurrection or rebellion and all other crimes committed by them in furtherance or on the occasion thereof, or incident thereto, in connection therewith," was signed by the President on October 22. In a separate statement the President said that the proclamation is calculated to "facilitate the prosecution and final disposition of the increasing number of cases arising from the seditious, rebellious or otherwise subversive acts of the lawless elements to the end that normalcy may be restored and the democratic way of life may be preserved for us and our children."

ON October 23, the President issued Executive Order No. 355, creating the Land Settlement and Development Corporation (LASEDECO) and dissolving the National Land Settlement Administration, the Rice and Corn Production Administration, and the machinery and equipment department of the National Development Company; and Executive Order No. 356, creating the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) and dissolving the national shipyard and heavy industries department, the Engineer Island shops, the steel and mill project, and the reparation tools department of the National Development Company.

On the same day, the President proclaimed November 15, 1950, as official holiday in the newly created Provinces of Mindoro Oriental and Mindoro Occidental. The law dividing Mindoro into two provinces effective November 15, was passed during the last regular session of the Congress.

IN a speech delivered at the United Nations Day luncheon at the Manila Hotel's winter garden on October 24, the President declared that the United Nations had passed its supreme test "with exceptional brilliance" in Korea and that it had demonstrated beyond dispute its readiness to remove threats to world peace and repel acts of aggression.

UPON receipt on October 28 from President Truman, through Ambassador Cowen, of the Bell Economic Survey Commission report, President Quirino said that the report is a highly constructive statement of conditions prevailing in the Philippines and that whatever criticisms the report contains, "they were made in the best faith and with a desire to be helpful to us." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for *full text of the President's statement.*]

IN an address to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines at its foundation day ceremonies held on the Malacañan Palace grounds in the evening of October 31, the President urged the people to retain their honesty of conviction and belief and appealed for a rededication of values to preserve the nation's integrity. The President was presented by Jorge B. Vargas, president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, the "Silver Tamaraw," the highest BSP award, for services to the scout movement in the country. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for *full text of the President's speech.*]

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: November, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino in a brief and simple ceremony on November 1, inducted Justice Luis P. Torres as chairman of the Integrity Board vice Dr. Jorge C. Bocobo, resigned. In the morning Executive Order No. 358 amending the executive order creating the Integrity Board was signed by the President, together with Administrative Order No. 136 extending further to November 30 the period within which the Reorganization Commission shall submit its report and recommendations.

ON November 2 the President set up the working machinery to study and make recommendations on the various phases of the Bell report. The Recommendations of these sub-committees on the different phases of the Bell report were coordinated by the Philippine Economic Survey Mission headed by former Speaker Jose Yulo and served as a guide for President Quirino in his series of conversations with representatives of the United States Government headed by Economic Coordination Administrator William Foster.

THREE proclamations were issued by the President on November 3, the first designating the period from November 9 to 15 of each year as Clean-Up-Week, and the other two making public the treaties of friendship concluded by the Philippines with Turkey and Thailand.

A BUDGETARY loan agreement of P70 million to the Philippines from the United States Government was signed November 6 in Washington. Secretary Carlos P. Romulo signed for the Philippines and Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder signed for the United States.

PRESIDENT Quirino, November 7, started preliminary talks with members of the American delegation sent to the Philippines by President Truman to discuss the implementation of the Bell recommendations.

ON November 10 the President issued Executive Order No. 365 abolishing the National Airports Corporation and transferring its assets and functions to a reorganized Civil Aeronautics Administration, and creating a revolving fund for the operation of the Manila International Airport. The National Cooperatives and Small Business Corporation was likewise abolished and converted into the Cooperatives Administration Office under the Department of Commerce and Industry by virtue of Executive Order No. 364 issued on the same day.

ON November 11 Executive Order No. 367 was issued by the President integrating the National Urban Planning Commission, the Capital City Planning Commission and the Real Property Board into one unit called the National Planning Commission, in line with the general reorganization plan of the Government.

PRESIDENT Quirino started talks with the Foster mission promptly on its arrival at the Guest House at 10:20 a.m. on November 14. The series of conversations was concluded at 3 p.m. of the same day with the signing of the memorandum agreement containing the recommendations for the implementation of the U. S. economic aid to the Philippines under the Bell plan.

VIGAN received its favorite son with a mammoth demonstration when the President arrived at the Vigan airport at 4 p. m. on November 15 to visit his hometown and to celebrate his 60th birthday. Practically one half of the population of Vigan gathered at Plaza Salcedo to welcome their favorite townsman. On the eve of his birthday the President granted conditional pardon to 30 prisoners. In the evening the President delivered his 25th monthly radio chat inviting all the citizens to "rededicate ourselves to the cause of our common people, to the cause of democracy." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for the full text of the radio chat.*]

The President was in the best of spirit when he celebrated his birthday the next day, November 17, giving away gifts to old and poor people, instead of receiving gifts. The President also took occasion to sign a proclamation on that day, declaring November 23 as Thanksgiving Day in the Philippines.

THE President arrived at the International Airport from Vigan at 9 o'clock a. m. on November 18. He motored directly to Malacañan to prepare for the meeting of the Council of State. The President interrupted the Council's meeting to receive U. S. Secretary of the Navy Francis P. Matthews who made a courtesy call in Malacañan.

ON November 20 the President received Major General Harry Malony consultant in the U. S. defense department who visited Manila in the course of a familiarization tour of important cities of the world.

ON Thanksgiving Day, November 23, the President gave a Thanksgiving luncheon in honor of officials who recently returned from international conferences abroad. In the evening he signed a proclamation calling Congress to a special session "to enact tax legislation and to adopt such other measures as will insure the financial stability of the Government."

DURING the cabinet meeting on November 24, the President signed an executive order abolishing four big corporations, the National Coconut Corporation, the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation, the National Tobacco Corporation, and the National Food Products Corporation. The order also abolishes the former enemy-owned or controlled corporations or associations now being administered by NAFCO, and created a board of liquidators to dispose of all the assets and property of the NAFCO, NACOCO, NATOCO, NFPC and the former enemy-owned or controlled corporations. The trading functions of the abolished corporations were turned over to PRISCO.

AT the meeting with his advisory group on November 25, the President created the Philippine Council for United States Aid to start immediately negotiations with the U. S. representatives in order to chart the development program that may be included in the U. S. assistance and cooperation plan. In the afternoon, the President received U. S. Senator William Knowland, who stopped in Manila on his return trip to the United States from a fact-finding tour of Japan, Korea, and Formosa.

THE next day the President honored Senator and Mrs. Knowland with a luncheon at the Palace. Speaking at the luncheon, Senator Knowland said that the Philippines is the showcase of democracy and that on the shoulders of the Filipino and the American people rest the responsibility of making democracy succeed.

THE President issued a proclamation on November 27, designating December 10 as Human Rights Day in commemoration of the second anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On the recommendation of the Integrity Board, the President authorized in the morning of the same day the suspension of Director of Labor Felipe E. Jose, pending administrative charges filed against him by former Labor Secretary Primitivo Lovina, Congressman Filemon C. Kintanar of Cebu, and Director F. S Albert of the Detective and Protective Bureau Inc. for alleged misconduct and irregularity in office.

PRESIDENT Quirino issued Executive Order No. 375 on November 28, abolishing the Rural Progress Administration and; transferring its powers, duties, functions, assets, and liabilities to the Bureau of Lands. Assigned to handle the various activities of the abolished office is a Division of Landed Estate created in the Bureau of Lands by the same executive order.

ON November 29, the President instructed Secretary of Finance Pio Pedrosa to prepare the payment of gratuities to officials and employees of the Government who will be laid off as a result of the reorganization of the Government. The President also instructed Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, chairman of the FRISCO, to give away as Christmas gifts to the needy all stocks and articles that the PRATRA had been unable to sell.

SPEAKING at the National Heroes Day ceremonies at Fort Santiago on November 30, the President called upon the nation to adopt a norm of conduct "for positive action in order to make this country prosperous and peaceful." The problem of today "are so complicated that it would no longer suffice to imitate our heroes of the past. It is our duty to surpass them," the President pointed out.

Immediately after the ceremonies the President proceeded to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier where he offered a wreath. From Fort Santiago he proceeded to the Luneta to visit Rizal's monument where he was received by a corps of cadets from local universities.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: December, 1950

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

ON the first day of December President Elpidio Quirino issued Executive Order No. 377 abolishing the surplus property liquidating committee, and transferring its functions, assets, and liabilities to the newly created board of liquidators composed of Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, chairman, and Undersecretary of Coordination Gregorio Licaros and Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez, members. At the Cabinet meeting on the same day the President announced the appointment of Juan M. Arellano as director of planning. The President also named as members of the board of directors of the National Planning Commission Jorge V. Vargas, chairman, and Secretary of Public Works Sotero Baluyut, Jose Paez, and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, members.

ON December 4, the President appeared before the joint special session of Congress which was convened to act on urgent pending tax legislations. In his message, the President took occasion to sound a grave warning on the critical world situation as he said "mankind today is facing its most desperate hour" and that "any chance spark that passes vigilance of the world's most responsible leaders may ignite the explosion that can blow us into dust." Varied tax measures designed to raise the country's revenues as recommended in the Bell report constituted the greater portion of the President's recommendations to Congress. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's message in this issue.*]

IN a touching ceremony held on December 8 at the Malacañan social hall, under the auspices of the Women's Civic Assembly, the President awarded a gold medal of merit to Mother Rosa Maria, mother vicar of the congregation of the Assumption sisters of the Philippines, in recognition of her 46 years of "distinguished and effective service as a leader in religious education" in this country.

AFTER consultation with the Cabinet on December 8, the President signed Executive Order No. 380 authorizing the secretary of education to delegate to the Bureau of Internal Revenue the collection of the one per cent tax on tuition and other fees of educational institutions and the cancellation of permits or recognition of private schools that fail to pay the required tax. An administrative order was likewise signed designating a committee to take charge of the Rizal Day observance this year.

ON December 11, the President conferred with Major General Leland Stanford Hobbs, chief of JUSMAG, at the President's study in Malacañan Palace. The Chief Executive took up with his American military adviser the military situation in the Far East.

The President also conferred at noon of the same day with General Guillermo Francisco, Malacañan technical adviser, who reported on his recent trip to Leyte.

ON December 12, the President created a nine-man group to clear Manila of its slums. The group will have at its disposal P3,000,000 given the Philippines by the United States for slum, clearance and relief distribution work.

THE next day, the President ordered the distribution of relief to some 6,000 needy families in Manila's slum section on Christmas and the subsequent transfer of these families to more healthful locations, in line with the social amelioration program of the Administration.

PRESIDENT Quirino entertained the members of both houses of Congress at a luncheon at Malacañan Palace on December 15.

IN his 26th monthly radio chat on December 15, the President declared that 1950, "the testing year of our endurance to resist any threat to our national integrity and security," was the highest hurdle in our national course. It marked "the decisive rout of all dire prophecies at home and abroad about us and our collapse," according to the President in making an accounting of how the country went through during the year. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's radio chat in this issue.*]

SPEAKING to the provincial governors and city mayors at the Barangay Day ceremonies at the Manila Hotel the next day, December 16, President Quirino said that “whether they liked it or not, the people would expect from them success in the execution of the aims and ideals of the barangay organization.” The President reiterated that the barangay will not be a citizen army as its actual idea is citizenship training. [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President’s speech in this issue.]

THE provincial governors and city mayors, on December 18, reversed their previous stand against the abolition of the Department of the Interior, following the explanation by the President that its abolition was recommended by the reorganization commission not only to effect economy in salary but also to Cut down red tape and waste of time.

THE President paid a call on former Governor General Francis Burton Harrison on the occasion of the 76th birthday anniversary of the bedridden Governor, at his residence in Quezon City in the evening of December 18.

THE next day the President designated Pable Lorenzo as acting full-time Governor of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation upon the recommendation of RFC Chairman Placido L. Mapa, to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of former Governor Alfredo Yatco.

THE Council of State and the National Security Council in full attendance met at the council of state room in Malacañan on the night of December 19 to consider problems of national defense and internal security in the face of critical world situation. The joint meeting also considered the intensification of the total economic mobilization program of the country. General Leland S. Hobbs, Chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group, was present during the meeting presided by President Quirino.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 383 abolishing the Department of the Interior and transferring its duties, powers, and functions to the Office of the President in line with the general reorganization of the Government, was issued by the President on December 20, following a one-hour conference in the morning with Senate President Protempore Quintin Paredes and Congressman Agustin Y. Kintanar, chairmen of the corresponding reorganization committees of the two houses of Congress.

THE next day, the President issued Executive Order No. 384 transferring to PRISCO the powers and functions of the Import Control Administration and the Import Control Board with respect to the importation of a number of critical commodities which have been permitted unlimited entry into the country.

THE traditional gift-giving Christmas program was held at Malacañan on December 22, with the President’s daughter, Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez, distributing gifts to about 5,000 underprivileged Manila children.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, the President, on the same day, pardoned an abandoned mother of two children who was serving a two-month sentence for profiteering.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 386 abolishing the Department of Economic Coordination and creating the Office of Economic Coordination to be headed by the administrator of economic coordination, was signed by the President on December 22. Secretary of Economic Coordination Salvador Araneta, was named economic administrator.

PRESIDENT Quirino received on December 23 Mrs. Myron M. Cowen, wife of the U. S. ambassador, who paid a courtesy call following her recent return from the United States. The next day the President honored Mrs. Cowen and Mrs. Joaquin Elizalde, who arrived together from the United States, with a luncheon in Malacañan.

ON December 24, the President granted 62 Christmas pardons, consisting of 35 conditional reprieves, 16 absolute pardons, ten special pardons, and one reduction of sentence.

THE President spent Christmas quietly. He and his family heard midnight mass at the Malacañan chapel. He received well-wishers at the Palace at about 10:30 a.m. In the evening, he had dinner with immediate members of his family as a sort of welcome to his son, Lt. Tomas Quirino, who arrived by plane from the United States.

ON December 26, the President took steps to prevent the Manila Railroad from suspending operations for lack of funds. At a conference with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and Finance Secretary Pio Pedrosa, it was decided to raise the necessary money for the operation of the railway company. The company was required to discontinue some bus lines operating at a loss in the provinces in order to balance its budget.

ON the same day, the President suspended the effectivity of Executive Order No. 348 transferring to PRISCO some of the functions of the Import Control Administration by issuing Executive Order No. 388 listing 15 commodities and raw materials as “in short supply” in the Philippines, which the PRISCO is authorized to import as quickly as possible without quota allocation as required by the Import Control Law. The suspension of the effectivity of the Executive Order No. 348 will at the same time leave the Congress, if it so desires, to pass any measure during the regular session calculated to improve the Import Control Law.

SPEAKING before 3,000 members of various labor organizations who gathered at Malacañan on December 28 to witness the induction into office of Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, the President called on labor to cooperate with the Government in its fight against communism.

IN his address before delegates of the Philippine Library Association gathered at the Malacañan social hall on December 29, the President emphasized the need of disseminating information to the masses so that they might be properly apprised of the multifarious problems confronting the country. He assured the delegates that the National Library would be transferred to “better and more dignified” surroundings.

IN a radio interview granted PIC Director Manuel Gonzalez on December 31, the President mapped out a course of action for the Government and the citizenry for the new year. The interview was the first of its kind given by the President. It was broadcast from the President’s study room over all local radio stations from 6:30 to 7 p. m. [*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the interview in this issue.*]

ON New Year’s eve, the granting of executive clemency to 40 prisoners recommended by the Board of Pardons and Parole, was announced at Malacañan.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: January, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino signed shortly before midnight of December 31, 1950, Executive Order No. 392 reorganizing the different Executive departments, bureaus, offices and agencies of the Republic of the Philippines. The order which took effect on January 1, 1951 reduced the departments of the Government from 13 to 10. The order provides for gratuities for officials and employees to be laid off and for a standardization of salaries of civil service employees.

IN its meeting on January 2, the Cabinet approved the sending of a survey party to Japan to study the systems and methods of development and operation of home industries for adoption in the Philippines. The party will also survey the operation of war economy in Japan, especially with regard to stockpiling and related fields which the Philippines can adopt in the event of war.

ON the recommendation of the Reorganization Commission headed by Ramon Fernandez, the President issued Executive Order No. 394 on January 2 creating two offices to handle the accounting and auditing work for the Philippine Army effective as of July 1, 1950. In another executive order numbered 393 issued on the same day, the Central Luzon Agricultural School in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, was converted into a college to offer, in addition to its present four-year secondary course in agriculture, collegiate courses leading to the title of associate in agriculture and the degrees of bachelor of science and master of science in agriculture.

ON January 4, the President issued an executive order consolidating the Social Welfare Commission and the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration into the Social Welfare Administration in conformity with the government organization plan. Mrs. Asuncion A. Perez automatically became the head of the new office with the title of social welfare administrator.

AT the Cabinet meeting on January 5, the President signed an executive order consolidating the Philippine legations in Rome, Paris, and Madrid into one embassy with headquarters in Madrid. The newly created embassy shall exercise jurisdiction over the Philippine legations in Rome, Paris, the Vatican, Brussels, and The Hague.

Another order signed by the President during the same Cabinet meeting changed the membership of the Deportation Board by making the commissioner of immigration a member of the board instead of the first deputy commissioner of immigration. The judge advocate general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or his representatives has also been made a member of the board.

THE President was deeply grieved upon learning of the death of NBI Director Joaquin Pardo de Tavera who succumbed to a heart attack at 8:40 a. m. on January 6. The President said that in Tavera's demise "the Philippines has lost a worthy son and noble-minded citizen." To take his place, Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos was designated on the same day as acting chief of the National Bureau of Investigation.

In the evening of the same day, the President gave a dinner in honor of Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Carlos P. Romulo.

THE period from January 15 to February 14 was designated for this year's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts national fund campaigns outside Manila in proclamations issued by the President on January 8 and January 15.

UPON the recommendation of Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon, President Quirino has authorized three divisions of the Court of Appeals to hold sessions in the Visayas and in Baguio during the months of April and May to decide and dispose of pending cases that have to be acted upon not later than June 30, 1951, Malacañan announced on January 9.

THE undersecretaries of the various departments of the Government took steps in their first meeting held on January 11 to execute President Quirino's directive to the Cabinet to expedite government business by the elimination of red tape or round-about routes. A set of rules to be followed in the handling of routine and urgent correspondence to effect not only speedy action but economy was approved.

SPEAKING before the first annual meeting of the Supreme Council; of Scottish Rite of Freemasons in the Philippines on January 11, President Quirino said that he could not think of anything more appropriate than to appeal to them as individuals and as a brotherhood to help create here in our midst the moral and spiritual climate conducive to goodwill, trust, and unity." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, *for full text of the address.*]

THE Cabinet on January 12 decided to muster hardened guerrillas into the fight against the Huks and bandits, after hearing a lengthy report by Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay on the latest Huk atrocities in Bataan and Tarlac. The President has accepted the offer of Col. Marking Agustin to lead three companies of battle-tested guerrillas into the field.

PRESIDENT Quirino took time out on January 13 from his official duties to join fellow law alumni of the University of the Philippines in celebrating their 40th homecoming in Diliman, Quezon City. Speaking before about 500 alumni gathered at luncheon in the U.P. social hall, the President urged his fellow alumni to lay aside "past political differences" and reiterated his appeal for national unity in the face of the current world situation.

ON January 13, Malacañan announced approval of the recommendation of the Department of National Defense to confer the Philippine Legion of Honor award (Commander degree) upon Commander Charles Pierce of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey "for exceptionally meritorious services to the Republic of the Philippines," in recognition of his invaluable services in the rehabilitation of the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey during the years 1947 to 1950.

AFTER the induction of Brigadier General Calixto Duque as acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on January 15, the President instructed him to proceed with the reorganization of the armed forces with the end in view of producing "a revitalized and respectable army capable of fighting not only with its might but also with human feelings to inspire the confidence of the people."

IN his 27th monthly radio chat broadcast in the evening of January 15, the President declared that in the crises that we face today, the ultimate protection and preservation of our cherished liberty and our survival itself must depend on the quality of our spirit—of faith, love and loyalty to our country, of self-sacrifice, or selflessness and solidarity." [See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS *for full text of the President's radio chat in this issue.*]

ON January 16, the President signed a proclamation declaring the period from February 15 to March 14 for this year's annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross.

SPEAKING before a large delegation of Chinese chamber of-commerce presidents and leaders who paid a courtesy call at Malacañan on January 20, the President appealed to all Chinese nationals in the country to rally with the Filipinos in the common fight against communism.

PRESIDENT Quirino submitted to Congress on January 23 his executive order reorganizing the Government, together with its Budget which is five million pesos lower than the General Appropriations for 1950-1951. The reduced Budget which amounts to ₱340,545,970 took effect on January 1, 1951.

PRESIDENT Quirino received on behalf of the Philippine government a one million-peso check from James Mel. Henderson, alien property administrator of the United States, in turn-over ceremonies held at Malacañan's council of state room on January 25. The check representing the proceeds from the sale of enemy-owned property administered by the PAPA, together with the title to four parcels of real estate located in Davao and Quezon with an

aggregate area of 520,000 square meters, were turned over to the Philippine government through the signing of transfer documents and the token payment of four one-peso bills by President Quirino.

On the same day, the President signed Proclamation No. 236 declaring the first week of March every year as National Nutrition Week, and Proclamation No. 237 reserving a certain portion of land in Abulug, Cagayan, for nursery site purposes.

TWO leading American businessmen visiting Manila, Neil McElroy, president of Procter and Gamble, and Marvin Wood, California businessman, were luncheon guests of President Quirino at Malacañan at noon of the same day. Present at the luncheon were presidents of the different chambers of commerce and members of the presidential party which accompanied President Quirino in his visit to the United States in 1949. Assurance of full government protection and fair business opportunities to prospective foreign investors was given by the President when the two visitors paid a courtesy call at Malacañan in the morning.

THE President had an enlightening talk on the problems of tourism with officials of Northwest Airlines headed by its vice-president, Amor Culbert, who paid a social call at Malacañan on January 27. The President assured his visitors of his deep interest in fostering tourist trade in the Philippines.

IN his speech welcoming President and Mrs. Achmed Sukarno of Indonesia at the international Airport on January 28, President Quirino declared that the occasion was “indeed,, a historic moment in the life of the peoples of Southeast Asia,” and that it was “with a genuine fraternal feeling” that he was welcoming the distinguished visitors on behalf of the Filipino people. At the reception given by the President the next day at Malacañan in honor of the distinguished visitors, government officials headed by President Quirino and high diplomatic and consular officials danced the *rigodon de honor*.

ON January 31, the President signed Executive Order No. 406 fixing the ceiling prices of certain brands of imported foodstuff.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: February, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino submitted on February 1 to the Commission on Appointments the nomination of Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Spain. The following were appointed on the same day to the Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers: Eladio Santos, chairman, for three years; Arsenio P. Juan, member for one year; and Juan J. Carlos, member for two years.

AFTER a lengthy conference with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay on February 2, the President issued Proclamation No. 238, lifting the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in seven provinces in the Visayas and in eight provinces in Mindanao. The President said that the restoration of the writ of habeas corpus will be extended to other provinces "from time to time as peace and order conditions in those areas warrant."

ON the eve of President Achmed Sukarno's homeward trip to Indonesia on February 3, President Quirino awarded him the Philippine Legion of Honor with the rank of Chief Commander, at the Malacañan ceremonial hall in the presence of ranking Philippine officials and members of the local diplomatic corps.

At the press interview granted to some Indonesian newspapermen at the Manila International Airport in the presence of President Sukarno, just a few minutes before the Sukarno party took off, President Quirino, declared that the Philippines had cast her lot with the democracies in the present conflict between democracy and communism, and added: "America gave us freedom, and we are ready to lose that freedom with America, if necessary."

THE Department of Foreign Affairs announced on February 3 the assignment of Consul General Jose P. Melencio of New York as Minister to occupied Japan with the rank of ambassador, to succeed Minister Bernabe Lea who was assigned to Djakarta as minister with the rank of ambassador.

ON February 4, President Quirino issued Executive Orders Nos. 407 and 408 fixing the ceiling prices of important materials for the manufacture of shoes, imported poultry feeds, and galvanized plain wire.

THE President cancelled his lifted callers on February 6 and postponed until the next day the Cabinet meeting in order to concentrate work on the 1951-52 Budget with the aid of his financial advisers whom he consulted the proposed government expenditures for the next fiscal year. The President had until midnight to submit the budget to Congress.

IN its meeting on February 7; the Cabinet approved Philippine participation in the ECAFE Conference to be held in Lahore, Pakistan, and in meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Committee in Colombo, Ceylon. The Philippine delegation to the forthcoming ECAFE conference will be headed by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda, while Leonides Virata and Andres V. Castillo of the Central Bank will represent the Philippines in Colombo Plan meeting.

ADDRESSING the members of the Philippine Lawyers' Association at the Manila Hotel on the 16th anniversary of the Constitution on February 8, the President declared: "As individuals and as a people, we can survive our and emerge the stronger when we cherish the Constitution not merely affirmation of rights but as an injunction to civic duties for a free and democratic system." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President's address in this issue:)

PRESIDING at the meeting of the members of the foreign relations committee of both houses of Congress on February 9, the President exchanged views on points U. S. Ambassador Dulles may likely raise in his meeting with the Chief Executive on February 12.

FURTHER control of the prices of essential imported commodities was ordered by President Quirino on February 10 with his issuance of Executive Orders Nos. 410 and 411 fixing the new ceiling prices for powdered milk, spices, and beverages. The President designated Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry Saturnino Mendinueto as acting

chairman of the board of directors of the Price Stabilization Corporation, vice Secretary Balmaceda who, would attend the 7th ECAFE session in Lahore, Pakistan.

THE President granted on February 10 conditional pardon to a former Japanese officer who had been sentenced to 20 years at hard labor for war crimes committed by members of his command during the occupation, on condition that the prisoner leaves the Philippines for Japan upon his release. This was the first case of a Japanese war criminal convicted by 'the National War Crimes office to be pardoned by the Chief Executive, following representations made by prominent Filipinos to whom the Japanese officer, Hideichi Matsuzaki, had given favors during the Occupation.

PRESIDENT Quirino and Ambassador Dulles opened the talks on the Japanese peace treaty with a two-hour conference at the President's study at Malacañan on February 12. They discussed in broad outlines the important issues of the Japanese peace treaty, particularly the Philippine position on the question of reparations.

In the evening, the President honored Ambassador and Mrs. John Foster Dulles with a formal dinner at Malacañan. In an after-dinner speech, the President addressing Ambassador Dulles declared: "Mr. Ambassador, I am glad that you have come to study and observe the relative importance of America's responsibility in the Orient We have been looking forward to this opportunity to review with you our situation in the light of the most distressing moments in our lives as free people." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS for full text of the President's speech in this issue.)

MALACAÑAN announced on February 13 the awards by the President, of the Philippine Legion of Honor to Rear Admiral Louis Dreller, Captain William A. Dolan, and Lieutenant Harvey J. Woods, all of the USN, for outstanding services rendered to the Republic of the Philippines. The awards were granted upon recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense.

PRESIDENT Quirino officially launched on February -14 the Philippine National Red Cross drive for 1951, before high government officials, diplomatic representatives, and a group of about 3,000 cadets, boy scouts, girl scouts, and Red Cross workers who marched from Plaza Lawton to Malacañan. In appealing to the people to help Red Cross collect more funds for future eventualities, the President said that in helping the civic and humanitarian institutions, the contributor is actually helping the government, the nation, and himself.

IN an impassioned extemporaneous speech delivered before the student body of the University of the Philippines at their convocation on February 14, the President put up a vigorous defense of his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, pointing out that it was absolutely necessary under the prevailing peace and order condition of the country. The President rapped his critics who, he said, "are helping the enemies of the State deliver the country to a foreign power."

THE F.E.U. debaters who successfully defended the action of the Presides A in suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in a debate against the University of the Philippines on January 30, were invited to Malacañan by President Quirino on February 14. The President warmly congratulated the winning debaters and spent about an hour discussing with them the arguments in defense of the writ suspension.

IN response to requests from many quarters, the President used his extemporaneous speech at the U.P. convocation the previous day for his 28th monthly radio chat broadcast over air radio stations on the night of February 15.

PRESIDENT Quirino administered the oath of office on February 16 to Engineer Gil R. Mallare as acting mayor of Baguio City vice Justice Luis P. Torres, resigned. Whether Mallare will occupy the position temporarily or permanently will depend upon his performance, the President s indicated in inducting the new city mayor.

On the same day Malacañan announced that the President had authorized the conferment of various awards to 14 U. S. Army personnel and a Filipino officer for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in the Philippines during the last war. The awards range from the Philippine Legion of Honor of the officer and Legionnaire degrees to the Gold Cross Medal. The Philippine Legion of Honor of the officer degree was given

to Lieutenant Colonel Frank Snyder and the Gold Cross Medal, to Major Simeon M. Valdez. Ten U. S. Army enlisted men were awarded the Legion of Honor, legionnaire degrees.

THE President signed on February 16 Executive Order No. 413 fixing the ceiling price of red or yellow corn, and Executive Order No. 414 amending the previous executive order regarding the establishment of military tribunals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Proclamation No. 239 Reserving for summer resort purposes certain parcels of public land in Davao City, and Administrative Order No. 139 ordering the transfer of the sugar adjustment and stabilization fund from the National Treasury to the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission were also signed on the same day.

ON February 17 Malacañan released the full text of House Bill No. 1451 raising taxes on luxury articles, which took effect the previous day upon being signed by the President.

DURING the induction of Labor Secretary Jose Figueras on February 20 as acting chairman of the governing council of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, the President ordered the rushing of the completion of government housing projects intended to provide better homes for Manila's slum dwellers, to implement the slum-clearing program of the administration.

THE President instructed Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay during the Cabinet meeting on February 20 to dispose of pending cases against suspects for alleged sedition and rebellion, to file complaints against trainees and expedite their trial, or to release them if no charges for sedition or rebellion could be filed against them.

Moreover, the President ordered the Cabinet to implement immediately "land for the landless" program in order to facilitate the settlement of lie lands in Mindanao and Palawan by dissidents who surrender to the government with their arms to return to normal and peaceful life.

ON February 21 the President signed Executive Order No. 415 changing the composition of the Government Quarters' Committee and granting additional powers and duties. Under the new order the committee shall composed of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, as chairman and the Budget Commissioner and the Auditor General, as members.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 22 the release of ₱6,000,000 from the motor vehicle fund for the reconditioning of highway facilities in various parts of the country.

THE Cabinet adopted a resolution of February 23 authorizing the payment of salaries to laid-off government employees who actually rendered services from January 1 up to the date of their lay-off, the amount to be taken from the available funds of the office concerned.

TAKING a direct hand in the current drive to rid Manila of vice and prostitution, the President on February 26 ordered Major General Guillermo B. Francisco, adviser on police matters, to formulate a program of action based on reports and recommendations submitted to Malacañan by the Citizen's Conference on Moral Crusade.

In the evening of the same day, the President held a conference with Ambassador Cowen, Vincent Checchi of the ECA, and former Speaker Jose Yulo regarding the urgency of the interim aid to carry out the immediate completion of the fertilizer plant at Maria Cristina, the Ambuklao hydroelectric project, and the slum clearance in Manila.

THE next day, February 27, the President had a breakfast conference with Ambassador Cowen, Major General Leland S. Hobbs, and Brigadier General Calixto Duque in connection with his desire to hasten delivery to the Philippines of military equipment as provided for in the military assistance pact between the Philippines and the United States.

IN its meeting held on the same day, the Cabinet decided to classify educational and technical books as essential commodities and transferred the licensing of their importation from the ICA to the PRISCO.

ON February 28, the President authorized Benito Pangilinan, Director of Public Schools, to head the Philippine delegation to the First Asian Athletic Games to be held in New Delhi, India, from March 4 to March 11, 1951. This will be the first athletic meet of Asian countries since the outbreak of the war.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: March, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT Quirino addressed the 4th annual congress of sugar planters in Bacolod City on April 1. Explaining his veto of the bill increasing the share of planters, the President expressed his readiness to approve the corrected measure and announced his desire to make the Philippines a sanctuary of labor. He appealed to capitalists to provide better wages for laborers "without whom no industry will flourish."

FROM Bacolod City, the President visited Iloilo before returning to Manila on March 3 aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan*. Upon arriving at the international airport, the President expressed satisfaction over the departure of 223 poor and landless persons from Central Luzon the previous day on board the LST-842 bound for Mindanao where each family head would be allotted 10 hectares of land in the Lamian district of Koronadal Valley.

ON March 5 the President signed Executive Order No. 418 reducing office hours in all government bureaus and offices, except in the City of Baguio, to five continuous hours, from 8 o'clock in the morning to 1 o'clock in the afternoon, from April 1 to June 15, 1951, inclusive.

On the same day, department undersecretaries organized themselves into a committee to study ways and means of minimizing red-tape in the Government. They are to meet once a month to thresh out problems affecting efficiency in the service.

THE President signed on March-6 Republic Act No. 597 declaring Fort Santiago a national shrine and providing for the preservation of historical monuments in the walled city of Manila.

During the cabinet meeting on the same day, the President created a three-man committee, composed of Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, Finance Secretary Pio Pedrosa, and Administrator of Economic Coordination Salvador Araneta, to study the best bill to be submitted to Congress for enactment in place of the present import control law.

THE President enplaned on March 7 for Lucena, Quezon, where he accepted the surrender of 228 Huks with their arms to take advantage of the Government's benign policy toward repentant dissidents desiring to return to peaceful life. The President assured the dissidents who surrendered that even if those who have pending cases in court are tried and found guilty, they would-be extended parole or pardon if they were found really sincere in their desire to return to the folds of the law.

The President's decision on six of the 14 administrative cases against provincial treasurers involved in alleged irregularities in the purchase of school supplies was announced on the same day. The punishments meted out to the five erring treasurers ranged from six months suspension without pay to admonition. Felipe B. Pareja, treasurer of Cebu City, was exonerated from the charges filed against him, while Jose C. Orteza, provincial treasurer of Samar, was admonished to comply strictly with existing rules and regulations on the purchase of supplies and materials. The provincial treasurer of Iloilo, J. D. Jimenez, drew the heaviest penalty of suspension from office for six months without pay. Rodrigo Acosta, Jose Elayda, and Leon R. Barenaga, city treasurers of Legaspi, Zamboanga, and Basilan respectively, drew suspension of from three to one month respectively.

PRESIDENT Quirino authorized on March 8 the release of a total of ₱1,200,040 for the repair and maintenance of roads in the provinces arid cities, including those which suffered damages from typhoons and floods in November and December of last year.

The President conferred on the same, day with Major General Leland S. Hobbs, chief of the Joint US Military Advisory Group, who reported to Malacañan on the satisfactory reorganization of the Philippine Armed forces and the successful manner in which it is conducting its campaign dissidents. General Hobbs observed that the President's benign policy toward the dissidents to bring them back to the fold is bearing fruit appears successful.

On the same day, the President signed Executive Order No. 422 promulgating rules and regulations governing the appointments and superior of government pensionados (see page 1063 for full text), and Executive Order Nos. 419, 420, and 421, making an upward revision of the ceiling Bees of imported coffee, flour, butter, and galvanized pipes, and laying own price ceilings for baking powder and for two brands of local roasted brown coffee.

UPON the recommendation of the Monetary Board, the President approved on March 9 the unlimited importation of 165 medical items through the PRISCO, in the face of the critical situation which is aggravated by hoarders and blackmarketers.

At the cabinet meeting held in the evening of the same day, the President signed Executive Order No. 423, classifying educational and technical books as well as book paper and binding materials as essential commodities and "authorizing the PRISCO to import them in adequate quantities. Moreover, the President directed Undersecretary of Education Cecilio Putong to make 'a study and prepare recommendations for the printing in the Philippines of textbooks used in the elementary grades and high schools.

THE next day, March 10, the President signed-Executive Order No. 424, further amending a previous executive order creating the National Advisory Health Council.

In the afternoon of the same day, the President motored to the Manila International Airport to see his daughter off for Spain to consult an eye specialist. Mrs. Gonzalez was accompanied in the trip by her husband.

In the evening, President Quirino addressed a large delegation of officers and members of the National Land Transportation Association who attended the cocktail party he gave at Malacañan in honor of the newly elected officers of the NALATROA. He appealed to the transportation operators to minimize tragic accidents in the highways.

THE Cabinet authorized on March 3 Public Welfare Administrator Asuncion Perez to grant loans to the poor people who had lost their homes in the big fire in Iloilo for the purpose of enabling them to construct their homes. The President directed Mrs. Perez to set aside a sort of revolving fund from the PACSA, from which loans could be granted to the poor strictly for the rebuilding of their burnt houses.

ON March 14 the President constituted a new deportation board of three members composed of the undersecretary, of justice as chairman and the solicitor general and the vice-chief of staff of the Armed Forces as members. Although the insinuations that four out of the five original members of the Deportation Board had received bribes in connection with the Co Pak case, were not substantiated by the investigating committee headed by Justice Secretary Bengzon, the President-deemed it advisable to constitute a new board free from any suspicion or insinuation in the conduct of then-duties.

On the same day the President designated Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay as chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Railroad Company vice MRR Manager Prospero Sanidad who, under the uniform government corporation charter, is disqualified from serving on the board in any capacity whatever. The President also designated Public Works Secretary Sotero Baluyut as acting chairman of the National Power Board, vice Secretary Prospero Sanidad, and Filemon Rodriguez as acting chairman of the advisory board of the Institute of Science and Technology.

THE Council of State in its meeting on March 15 approved the recommendation of Finance Secretary Pip Pedrosa that the Council indorse a proposed bill declaring a moratorium on tax penalties and interest provided such taxes are paid during the period from March 1 to June 30, 1951.

It was also agreed upon during the Council of State meeting to have a law immediately enacted to abolish block voting, thereby ushering in an era of good feeling between the two chambers of the Congress and paving the way for enactment of the pending tax measures and the minimum wage bill.

IN his 29th monthly radio chat delivered in the evening of March 15, the President voiced the hope that 1951 would be the “biggest and richest year” for the nation as a growing democracy. He made this statement after a lengthy review of the strides made by the country in economic and financial development, social amelioration and the restoration of peace and order.

BY authority of the President, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista approved on the same day the allotment of ₱50,000 from the charity fund of the Philippines Charity Sweepstakes to the Philippine Tuberculosis Society for the operation and maintenance of the Quezon Institute.

PRESIDENT Quirino on March 16 reversed the decision of the old Deportation Board and ordered the deportation of Tan Li Po, millionaire Chinese dealer in war surplus materials, as an undesirable alien, upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Bengzon who had made a thorough review of the case on petition of Secretary of National Defense Magsaysay.

On the same day the nomination of Associate Justice Ricardo Paras as chief justice of the Supreme Court was submitted by the President to the Commission on Appointments. Justice Paras succeeds Chief Justice. Manuel V. Moran who has resigned following confirmation of his appointment as Philippine ambassador to Madrid.

PRESIDENT Quirino sustained on March 17 Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista’s reprimand the previous day of Manila Councilor Josefina Phodaca for uttering words unbecoming of a public official. The President said that Evangelista, as executive secretary, has the supervision over officials of the city, whether appointive or elective, and can reprimand any of them for conduct of insolence towards a superior officer.

On the same day the President administered the oath of office to the new member’s of the Deportation Board.

UPON strong representations made by Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo, Jr., the President signed on March 18, Administrative Order No. 151 creating a food commission “to formulate plans for the improvement of the nutrition of the masses and for the increase of food production in the country.” The Commission will be composed of five members, as follows: a: department of health representative, chairman; and representatives of the Institute of Nutrition, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of Commerce and Industry, and the consuming public, as members-all to be appointed by the President.

ACCOMPANIED by City Engineer Alejo Aquino and City Health Officer Mariano Icasiano, the President visited in the afternoon of the same day the slum sections of the city and the 80 hectares of land in Bago Bantay on Highway 54 in Diliman where 2,992 families or 15,000 people from the crowded sections of Manila will be moved. In anticipation of speedy approval of the American Congress of the pending bills that will bring to the Philippines ₱30,000,000 interim aid, including ₱3,000,000 earmarked for slum clearance, the President is taking steps to hasten the slum clearance in Manila. Later in the same afternoon, the President, accompanied by Defense Secretary Magsaysay and Acting Chief of Staff Calixto B. Duque, visited the V. Luna Hospital to bring good cheer to wounded Philippine Armed Forces soldiers from Korea and Huklands. The President was taken around the wards, and he talked to the recuperating soldiers to inquire about their personal circumstances and needs.

ON March 19, the President designated Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista and Governor Lino Castillejo of the RFC as acting members of the board of regents of the University of the Philippines. He also administered the oath of office to Vicente Gella as treasurer of the Philippines a ceremony held at the council of state room, in the presence of government officials, friends and relatives, of the new appointee.

Malacañan disapproved on the same day the direct purchase of an expensive furniture set in which the austerity policy of the government was summarily ignored,” in accordance with the recommendation of Undersecretary of Justice Ceferino de los Santos. The furniture was purchased by the Commissioner of Industrial Safety from a local furniture store. The Property Requisition Committee of the government disapproved the purchase because similar pieces of furniture could be obtained for ₱792 from other dealers. This decision of the Committee was upheld by the Deputy Auditor General and referred to the Department of Justice.

THE President signed on March 19 Proclamation No. 242 declaring Saturday, March 24, 1951, as a special holiday, upon the petition of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, in view of the fact that said day falls between two holidays, Good Friday and Sunday.

On March 20 the President signed Executive Order 426, fixing ceiling prices for automobile, truck, tractor and traction tires.

ON the same day the President approved the designation of Col. Eustacio B. Orobia as commanding officer of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), AFP, to succeed Brigadier General Pelagio Cruz, former airforce chief.

In a ceremony held at the council of state room in Malacañan at noon, of the same day, the President inducted former Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran as Philippine Ambassador to Spain, former Congressman Hadji Gulamu Rasul as governor of Sulu, Marcelo Eugenio as general manager of the PRISCO, and Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista and RFC Governor Lino Castillejos as members of the U. P. Board of Regents.

AT the meeting of the U. P. board of regents at the council of state room in the afternoon of the same day, the desire of U. P. President Bienvenido Gonzalez to retire as head of the state university was announced by President Quirino. In making the announcement, the President took occasion to pay Dr. Gonzalez tribute for his record of long and splendid service in the University of the Philippines. He said that for 37 years Dr. Gonzalez had served the U. P. in various capacities "with honesty, integrity, strength of character and amazing capacity for hard work."

BY authority of the President, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista approved on March 24 the Philippine Legion of Honor award (Legionaire) to Mrs. Maria Tojale for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the government when some 50 dissidents attacked the Sta. Fe detachment, "K" Co., 13th BCT, at San Marcelino Zambales, on October 31, 1950. Similar awards (Officers' ranks) were similarly authorized on the same day for Ex-Congressman Manalao Mindalano, for outstanding service in connection with the peace and order campaign; for Lt. Col. Alex E. Lancaster, for his sympathetic understanding and personal interest in the Philippines' 10th Battalion Combat Team in Korea; and for Captain Walter Williams, skipper of the USAT. *General Weigel*, for the heroic rescue without a single casualty of 2,000 inhabitants of Camiguin Island during the fierce eruption of Hiboc-Hiboc volcano.

PRESIDENT Quirino had a breakfast conference on March 27 with Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Major General Leland S. Hobbs and Brigadier General Calixto Duque in connection with his desire to hasten delivery to the Philippines of military equipment as provided for in the military assistance pact between the Philippines and the United States. The previous evening the President had another conference with Ambassador Cowen, Vincent Checchi of the EGA, and former Speaker Jose Yulo on the urgency of the interim aid to carry out the immediate completion of the fertilizer plant at Maria Cristina, the Ambuklao hydro-electric project and the slum clearance in Manila.

ABROAD program to implement fire prevention laws and to educate the public in fire prevention measures was adopted on March 27 by the newly reactivated Fire Prevention Board in conformity with a recent executive order of the President. The Board created three important committees to study laws and ordinances in connection with fire safety measures, and to carry on an educational campaign of information on fire prevention.

THE President, in his speech at the Burnham auditorium in Baguio before the First National Congress of College Student Youth Organizations on March 27, cited three things the country stands in dire need of, namely, domestic tranquility, economic development and national unity and discipline. He asked the youth to deliberate and study how they can help solve these problems.

ON March 28 the President signed three bills brought over from Manila to Baguio by a congressional committee, namely, the foreign exchange tax bill, the corporate tax bill, and the omnibus electoral bill. The first two bills are two of the measures the passage of which is necessary before the Philippines could get ECA aid.

THE Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines in its meeting at the council of state room in Malacañan on March 29 approved the retirement of U. P. President Bienvenido M. Gonzalez effective April 23, in compliance with his desire, and immediately after elected Dr. Vidal A. Tan, FEU president, as the next president of the state university. The entire proceedings were reported verbally by the board to President Quirino who arrived from Baguio shortly after their deliberations were over.

The entire Board of Regents later joined President Quirino in receiving the delegates of the student body of the University of the Philippines who came to Malacañan to petition the Board and the Chief of State to retain Dr. Gonzalez until at least the coming commencement exercises and to allow former Justice Claro Recto as commencement speaker. The students and their leaders who called on the President at Malacañan at noon were satisfied after hearing from him the other side of the question of Dr. Gonzalez retirement from the university. The President assured the students that academic freedom shall ever be maintained in the state university.

PRESIDENT Quirino submitted on March 30 to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nomination of Colonel Florencio Selga as chief of the constabulary with the rank of brigadier general.

The commission of 18 officers in the reserve force of the Armed Force's of the Philippines and the appointment of 71 candidates as cadets in the Philippine Military Academy was announced by Malacañan on the same day.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: April, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President completed on April 2 the organization of the new Import Control Board with the appointment of Alfredo Montelibano as chairman, and Alfonso Calalang and Francisco Ortigas, Jr., as members

Former Board Chairman Aurelio Periquet was appointed by the President as member of the board of directors of the Price Stabilization Corporation vice Aurelio Montinola who resigned to accept a position as member of the Monetary Board to succeed Rafael Corpuz whose term expired. Periquet also succeeds Montinola as member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines.

On the same day the President inducted into office Chief Justice Ricardo Paras of the Supreme Court and former Speaker Pro-Tempore Francisco Ortega as acting mayor of Baguio.

ON April 3 the President informed the Cabinet that he is returning Faustino Sy-Changco, import control commissioner, to his former post as deputy budget commissioner, to pave the way for the new Import Control Board to make its choice of import control commissioner.

Before the Cabinet meeting the President administered the oath of office to the new members of the Import Control Board, to Aurelio Periquet as member of the board of directors of the PRISCO and the board of regents of the University of the Philippines, to Aurelio Montinola as monetary board member of the Central Bank, and to Agriculture Undersecretary Jose S. Camus as acting governor of the RFC during the period of the leave of absence of RFC Governor Eduardo Cojuangco.

FOLLOWING the oath-taking ceremonies, the President received at his executive office Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah, head of the technical assistance service of the UNESCO, who paid a courtesy call following his arrival to sign an agreement in technical assistance with the Philippines.

Dr. Adiseshiah said that the assistance contemplated for the Philippines would extend over a period of years and would come in the form of technical experts, scholarship grants for various fields of science and technology, and demonstration equipment for rural, secondary and workers' education. The assistance agreement would provide an appropriation of \$100,000 for the first year.

THE Cabinet in its meeting on April 3 approved the President's plan to convert the Candaba swamps into fishponds and duck raising farms, and created a five-man committee to make a study and recommendations on the project. The committee is headed by Director of Fisheries Deogracias Villadolid. The members are Col. Alfonso Arellano, AFP; Francisco Marquez, administrative officer of the Department of Agriculture; Baguio City Engineer Eduardo Santos of the Department of Public Works; and Jose Panganiban of the NDC.

UPON the recommendation of the PRISCO, the President signed on April 3 Executive Order No. 427 fixing anew the ceiling prices of imported construction materials. Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of agriculture, he also signed Proclamation No. 248 reserving an area of 8,280 square meters in Baguio for a site of the Weather Bureau branch.

FREDERICK R. Thompson, chief of the IRO mission in the Far East, paid a courtesy call on the President on April 4, to thank the Chief Executive on behalf of the IRO Director General J. Donald Kingsley in Geneva for having offered haven for displaced persons in the refugee camp in, Guiuan, Samar.

Alfredo Eugenio, acting Census Director who accompanied Mr. Thompson, was instructed by the President to preserve the building and other improvements set up by the International Refugee Organization of the United Nations in the refugee camp at Guiuan, Samar, preparatory to acquisition of the property by the Philippine government for possible use as a political prisoners' detention camp.

THE President signed on April 4 Executive Order No. 428 allowing the addition of one per cent municipal tax to prices listed in 16 previous executive orders fixing ceiling prices of prime commodities. This executive order is in accordance with the provisions of Municipal Ordinance No. 3420 of the City of Manila, which took effect on January 1, 1951. The order is retroactive from the date of passage of the municipal ordinance.

ON April 5 the President took steps to halt the rising trend of prices of prime commodities and discourage hoarding of and speculation in said commodities, by authorizing the PRISCO to import without quota allocation and in such quantities as may be found necessary, six essential commodities; namely, rice, flour, milk, canned fish, canned meat, and coffee beans.

ON the same day, in the presence of high officials of the Department of Education, the President administered the oath of office to Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista as acting secretary of education. Following his induction to his new office, Secretary Evangelista had a conference with education bureau directors at the Malacañan council of state room to sound out their views on the improvement of the service. He instructed Undersecretary Cecilio Putong to submit a report on the implementation of the constitutional provision making it the aim of all schools "to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and vocational efficiency and to teach the duties of citizenship."

A total of 92 commissions from the reserve of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was announced by Malacañan on April 5. The newly commissioned officers include three second lieutenants in the air force, one captain and 87 probationary second lieutenants in the ground force, and one ensign in the navy.

THE President signed on April 6 the Minimum Wage Bill in the presence of members of the Cabinet and Harry S. Kantor, labor consultant of the ECA.

During the Cabinet meeting that followed, the President created a committee to study a general program for the construction of Intramuros. The members of the committee are Jorge B. Vargas, chairman; Architect Juan Arellano, executive officer; Senator Vicente J. Francisco, Architect Jose Toledo, Manila City Engineer Alejo Aquino, Gil Puyat, Mrs. Pilar Normandy, Mons. Gabriel Reyes, Vicente Rufino, and Representative Simeon Toribio, members.

In the evening, the President vetoed House Bill No. 1565 which sought legislative control over the finances of government owned and/or controlled corporations and enterprises. The convention for the exchange of postal money order between the United States and the Philippines as agreed between the two postal administrations, was also signed on the same day.

SHORTLY before noon on April 7, on board the presidential yacht *Apo* the President administered the oath of office to Demetrio Santos as new import control commissioner in an acting capacity in order to enable him to assume office immediately. Another official inducted on the same day, was Defense Secretary Magsaysay, as chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Railroad Company.

IN the presence of one of the biggest gatherings of leading Filipino women at the Malacañan Social Hall, the President awarded on April 9 the presidential medal of merit to Mrs. Mary E. Coleman Marsters, for laying "the groundwork of education for useful Filipino womanhood and of friendly relations between the United States and the Philippines." The 80-year educator from Indiana who came to the Philippines in 1902 was one of the pioneer American teachers in the Philippines.

On the same day the President signed two executive orders fixing new ceiling prices of imported milk and milk products and baking materials. Executive Order No. 430 took effect immediately while Executive Order 431 would take effect five days from the signing of the order.

THE President made a surprise inspection visit of the National Orthopedic Hospital at Mandaluyong, Rizal, in the afternoon of April 10, in response to a written invitation received from children patients who had complained of poor accommodations and inadequate facilities in the hospital. Upon his return to Malacañan he instructed Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr. to have conditions of patients in the orthopedic hospital improved.

ACTING by authority of the President, Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista upheld on April 10 a decision of the provincial board of Misamis Occidental that municipal councils are not vested with authority to promulgate rules and regulations governing the disposition of sand, gravel, stones or, boulders found in the public or private domain of the Government. Evangelista cited that “under Act No. 3077, as amended by Act No. 3858, this authority is exercised in the different provinces by the provincial or city treasurers concerned who act as deputies of the Director of Mines in their respective provinces or cities. This provision is implemented by Mines Administrative Order No. 3-A, issued on January 28, 1947.”

THE immediate construction of additional buildings within the National Orthopedic Hospital compound in Mandaluyong was ordered by the President on April 11 as a means of relieving congestion in the crowded children’s ward in the hospital. Secretary of Public Works Sotero Baluyut, together with Health Secretary Salcedo, was summoned to a conference at Malacañan for the purpose of finding out ways of improving the living conditions in the orthopedic hospital. Pending construction of the new buildings the President instructed Secretary Salcedo to install electric fans and blowers in the children’s ward.

EARLIER in the morning of the same day, the President signed the bill converting Capiz municipality into Roxas City in honor of the late President Manuel Roxas. Present were surviving members of the Roxas family, including Mrs. Trinidad de Leon and son Gerry, high government officials, and prominent citizens of Capiz. During the ceremony, the President also signed the appointments of the officials of the new city.

THE President had a one-hour conference on April 12 with Ambassador Myron M. Cowen on the bilateral agreement between the United States and the Philippines. Cowen assured the President that arrangements to facilitate the release of the ₱30 million ECA interim aid to the Philippines were going on smoothly.

THE President informed the Cabinet on April 13 that he would sign the ₱50 million counterpart bill the next day which the Senate passed that day. After the signing of the bill, he would send a cablegram to President Truman to reply to the letter handed to him the previous day by Ambassador Cowen before the start of their conference and to advise the American President of the action taken by the Philippine Congress on the counterpart bill. In that letter whose content was made public the next day, President Truman assured President Quirino that the “United States government for its part, is now prepared to proceed rapidly and actively to carry out its commitments in the programs” agreed upon.

ON April 14, the President signed Executive Order No. 433 establishing rules and regulations for qualifications of industries for tax exemption, and Administrative Order No. 153 creating a committee to formulate plans to exploit the natural resources of the Caridaba swamps.

AT a conference with the *hacenderos* at Malacañan in the morning, the President impressed big landowners of the necessity of resuming cultivation of huge areas of abandoned ricelands in Central Luzon in line with the intensification of the food production drive of the administration.

In the evening of the same day, the President issued a message on the third anniversary of President Roxas’ death.

FOLLOWING an hour-long conference with U. S. Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr. on April 15, the President gave a luncheon in Malacañan in honor of his guest who came to the Philippines for a brief visit. The luncheon was attended by ranking officials of the American and Philippine governments and members of the party of the visiting dignitary.

Speaking at that luncheon, Secretary Pace said: “The brief period of time I had with President Quirino was very heartening. I think that we found a community of thought, a community of approach on many fundamental things, that again are very heartening to me.”

URGING the people to roll up their sleeves and accomplish their tasks with redoubled vigor, the President appealed for organized public response and cooperation “to synchronize government action with private initiative Under ECA aid,” in his 30th radio chat on April 15.

THE Council of State at its meeting on April 16 approved the development program recommended by both the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid and the American group. The program will be financed from the \$15 million ECA interim aid fund. Following this action, former Speaker Jose Yulo, chairman of the PCUSA, cabled to the U. S. in the evening of the same day, the requisition covering practically all of the \$15-million fund. The requisitions were for materials and equipment for agriculture, fisheries, forestry, manufacture, mining, transportation, communication, hydroelectric power, public works, public health and education.

AFTER the Council of State meeting, the President went to his hardly completed country home in Novaliches, Rizal, to supervise the preparation of his 12-hectare land for planting into an orchard in fulfillment of what he said in his radio chat the previous evening that he himself would go to his farm to roll his sleeves and work the following day.

IN the universal test for survival, "building by cooperation is the rule; isolation, the exception." President Quirino said in his commencement speech at the Far Eastern University on April 19.

Before delivering his commencement address, the President was conferred the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* by Dr. Vidal A. Tan, outgoing president of the FEU and newly elected president of the University of the Philippines.

THE Cabinet created a committee on April 20 to conduct an investigation into big landholdings of corporations and individuals which they have not been able to cultivate. The three-man committee adopted a policy that lands applied for by corporations and individuals which they have not been able to cultivate should be reverted to the government in order to make them available to other persons or corporations that can put them into production.

ON April 21, Cornelius V. S. Roosevelt, son of former Governor-General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., called on President Quirino to report that the first shipment of ₱0.05 bill worth about ₱150,000 was expected here from the United States on April 27. The next shipment consisting of ₱0.05, ₱0.10 and ₱0.20 bills would arrive two or three days later and more shipments would follow until the ₱60 million worth of paper bills ordered by the Government to relieve the acute coin shortage here would be filled up. Mr. Roosevelt is vice president of the Security Banknote Company that contracted the printing of paper bills of small denominations for the Central Bank.

ON April 22, the President referred to the Secretary of Justice the report of the committee headed by Major General Guillermo B. Francisco which investigated the alleged blackmarketing of big stocks of flour by PRISCO officials in Cebu with instructions to prosecute them immediately should the evidences so warrant, without further need of forwarding the papers to the Integrity Board.

IN an inspired extemporaneous speech before the Knights of Columbus at Manila Hotel's winter garden on April 23, the President declared that the problems facing the nation today are not of the Philippines alone but are part of a world problem to preserve the democratic way of life against the worldwide threat of communism. He warned against "a foreign power across the sea" which, he said sought to capitalize on the poverty to spread its subversive ideology.

ON April 24, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo conferred for an hour with President Quirino on the results of the military mission to Washington which he headed. Romulo also reported later to the Cabinet that in general, the Philippine government has gained lately new prestige in Washington and in America. President Quirino's declaration of the existence of emergency was confirmed by the foreign affairs secretary in his report to the Cabinet on the international situation.

SHORTLY before noon on April 25, the President received Vincent Checchi, acting chief of the ECA special mission to the Philippines, who reported that agreement on the ₱50-million counterpart fund bill had already been reached between legislative leaders and representatives of the President and the ECA. Checchi accompanied to Malacañan Orin Lehman, member of the public advisory board of the ECA, who called to pay his respects following his arrival from the United States in the course of an inspection tour of ECA agencies in the Far East.

FOLLOWING his conference with ECA officials, the President received the officers of the Philippine Mental Health Association who asked him to issue a proclamation on Mental Health Week. In the presence of the delegation, the President issued Proclamation No. 250 declaring the period from June 24 to 30 as National Mental Health Week.

On the same day, the President issued Executive Order No. 435 amending Executive Orders Nos. 361, 381, 382, and 404 regarding the ceiling prices of Mello-Cup coffee, locally produced white bond paper, and Kotex and Kleenex toilet paper.

ON April 26, during the call of representatives of several youth welfare agencies in Manila, headed by Welfare Administrator Asunson A. Perez, the President appealed to civic organizations to exert special efforts to hold international conferences in the Philippines instead of in other countries and to refrain as much as possible from, sending delegations to conferences abroad until the dollar position of the country had improved considerably. The group called on the President to seek permission to send Filipino delegates to the seminar on youth welfare in India sometime in November.

ON April 27, the President entertained at luncheon the famous American writer and author, Edgar Ansel Mowrer at the Palace porch.

IN the afternoon of the same day, the President signed the bilateral agreement, with the United States – Ambassador Myron M. Cowen signing for the U. S. Government, in the presence of ECA and Philippine government officials. At 6.30 p.m. during the Cabinet meeting, the President signed Republic Act No. 604 known as the Counterpart bill.

The President in a talk to some newspapermen said that with the signing of the bilateral agreement and the bill providing for ₱50 million as counterpart to the ECA aid, there has been created an “atmosphere, means and determination” to make this year the real beginning of the total economic mobilization program of the Government.

THE President certified to Congress on April 28 the urgency of two bills, one appropriating ₱35 million for public work projects and the other appropriating ₱350,000 for the operation of the Wage Administration Service to carry out the provision of the Minimum Wage Law.

THE President left for Baguio in the morning of April 28 aboard the *Laong Loan*, accompanied by his daughter Vicky, son-in-law Chito; Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay and a few aides to fulfill an engagement to speak before the convention of businessmen the next day. In the press conference held shortly after his arrival in the summer capital, the President announced the promotion of Lt. Col. Dionisio Ojeda, commander of the 10th BCT in Korea, to full colonel on recommendation of Secretary Magsaysay.

SPEAKING before more than 500 delegates to the convention of businessmen at cocktails held at the Guest House at 5:30 in the afternoon of April 29, the President called on businessmen to take advantage of the ECA aid in the development of the country's industries. He said that the ECA aid is not meant for the Government alone but also for private enterprises whose program of activity falls under the bilateral agreement with the United States.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: May, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

ON May 1, the President delegated Secretary, of Labor Jose Figueras to read his speech before the NACTU National Convention held in Tloilo, in which he cautioned Labor not to be "deceived by promises of Utopia by the Messiahs of the so-called new faith," pointing out that "there is no greater democracy than that which assures for every man his right to self-development and self-expression." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS, page 2275.)

On the same day, it was announced at the Guest House, Baguio, that the President the previous evening signed H.B. No. 1569 extending for another year ending June 30, 1952, the law on price control. The old price control law expired on April 30, 1951. The act provides several amendments to the old price control law.

IN an informal address, delivered on May 2 before the delegates and officials of the 44th annual convention of the Philippine Medical Association and the first South East Asia Medical Conference, the President appealed to the physicians to help disseminate the rules of health in order to make all the peoples of East Asia strong and sturdy and thus efficiently contribute their share in the building of a new world. In a brief talk with newsmen at cocktails given at Malacañan in honor of delegates to the 44th annual medical convention, the President said the Philippine government would press its reparations claim against Japan, adding that the reparations payments were not being asked from American taxpayers but from the fast-rising Japanese nation. The President recalled that the U. S. had promised to pay all war damages in the Philippines, but that America had appropriated only \$400 million for the purpose out of a total of \$2 billion claims filed by Filipinos.

THE next day, May 5, the President signed Republic Act No. 611, permitting Armed Forces of the Philippines and members of the Cabinet and top brass of the Armed Forces the death and disability gratuity bill. Addressing the military personnel representing different units of the AFP after the signing of the bill; the President paid tribute to the soldiers of the country, pointing out to them that they are not fighting for the preservation of peace of our country alone, but for world peace. The President also signed a proclamation reserving a certain portion of land in La Paz, Iloilo City, as "Barrio Obrero" on the request of the municipal council of Iloilo and Vice President Fernando Lopez.

THE next day, May 5, the President signed Republic Act No. 611, permitting the cumulation of the annual vacation and sick leaves of government employees to not more than five months and the commutation of all accumulated leaves in case an employee is separated from the service.

IN the evening of May 6, the President gave an informal dinner in honor of former Justice and Mrs. George A. Malcolm, to which about 40 prominent former students of the eminent jurist were invited.

THE President told a delegation of wives of Filipino soldiers and officers in Korea who presented a petition to the Chief Executive on May 7, to speed up the replacement for the entire 10th BCT in Korea, that replacements are being sent to Korea as fast as availability of transportation warrants.

ON May 8, the President directed Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon to speed up the court cases involving officials charged with graft and corruption. Most of the cases involve officials of the Surplus Commission. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo was directed by the President to negotiate with the United States government so that title to sunken ships in Philippine waters would be vested in the Philippine government in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet to press for Philippine ownership of the said vessels.

THE President created on May 10 an eleven-man body to study the United States draft of the proposed treaty for Japan. The body will study the different aspects of the proposed treaty for Japan in order to crystallize Philippine views when, consulted on the peace treaty. The body, headed by Senator Vicente Francisco, is composed of Representative Diosdado Macapagal, Senator Tomas Cabili, Senator Carlos F. Garcia, Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Finance Secretary Pio Pedrosa, Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon, Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, Judge Guillermo Guevara and Gil Puyat. The President took up in a conference with Vice-President

Fernando Lopez, Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon, Economic Coordination Administrator Salvador Araneta, and Assistant Executive Secretary Marciano Roque the general provisions of the contract to be entered into between the Government and Col. Andres Soriano on the management of the Philippine Airlines. After the conference, the draft of the contract was referred to the Secretary of Justice for a more thorough study before it is put into final form. Administrative Order No. 155 creating a national committee to take charge of the 5th anniversary celebration of the Republic on July 4th was signed by the President on the same day.

THE President in a letter to PRISCO on May 11 accelerated the government's drive to insure an adequate supply of commodities and to arrest the rising trend of prices and discourage speculations and hoarding" by placing in the lists of decontrolled goods 19 groups of essential commodities heretofore under restriction.

BEFORE leaving for Capiz on May 12, the President signed Republic Act No. 613 prohibiting the exportation of machinery and their spare parts, scrap metals, medicine, foodstuffs, abaca seedlings, gasoline, oil lubricants and military equipment or supplies suitable for military use.

The President arrived in Capiz aboard the Presidential plane *Laong Loan* about 10 o'clock a.m. on May 12. Addressing at noon a huge crowd at the town plaza gathered to witness the inauguration of Roxas City, the President paid glowing tribute to the late President Roxas and told the people of Capiz that with the renaming and conversion of their town into a city in memory of the great leader, they had the responsibility to live up to the Roxas ideals.

IN May 13, the President directed Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo to initiate action with the U. S. embassy for the setting up of a joint commission on claims that the Philippines and the U. S. Governments have against each other as recommended in the Bell report. The Philippines has a total of P828,000,000 pending claims against the United States, as compared with the U. S. government claim of P70,000,000 against the Philippine Army. The President returned to Manila shortly after 11 o'clock that day from his one-day visit to Capiz to inaugurate Roxas City.

DIVISION superintendent of schools pledge their loyalty to and faith in President Quirino and his administration when they called at Malacañan on the afternoon of May 14. In response, the President thanked the school heads and emphasized to them the need of stressing vocational and adult education in the schools as a means of accelerating the total economic mobilization program of the Government.

DURING the Cabinet meeting on May 15, the President signed seven bills passed by Congress; namely, H. B. Nos. 88, 266, 288, 380, 484, 764, and 1255. On the same day, the President appointed' Drs. Santiago Y. Rotea, Anacleto Coronel; and Faustino Turla as examiners of the Veterinary Examining Board.

IN his 31st monthly radio chat in the evening of the same day, the President declared that the Government has started a new program of wealth distribution in connection with its intensified campaign to fight communism. (See HISTORICAL PAPERS, page 2281.)

IN a special message to Congress on May 16, the President urged the inclusion of an appropriation of P1,500,000 for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the old University of the Philippines buildings on Padre Faura for the use and accommodation of the various collections and offices of the Bureau of Public Libraries. He also certified to the urgency of a total of 38 bills pending in Congress.

MALACAÑAN announced on May 17 that the President had so far approved 29 bills and vetoed one passed by Congress in its fourth special session and in its last regular session. The vetoed bill sought to grant Jesus Arroyo, Jr., a franchise to operate an electric light and power system in Virac, Catanduanes. On the same day, the President designated Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon as his representative to look into alleged trafficking of dollars in the Central Bank.

ON May 18, the President entertained members of the Senate and the House of Representatives at a traditional luncheon held in their honor at the Malacañan social hall. Speaking during the luncheon, the President declared that

the last congressional session had been fruitful of fundamental legislation, and expressed gratitude to Senators and Representatives for their cooperation in the government's program of economic development and military security.

THE President left for Zamboanga on the first leg of his trip to Mindanao and Palawan on May 19, at 7:10 a.m., on board the presidential plane *Laong Laan*. The aim of the trip was to secure firsthand knowledge of the problems and difficulties of the people in those regions. Speaking at an informal conference with local officials at the city hall, shortly after his arrival at noon in Zamboanga, the President bared plans for utilization of Mindanao's untapped resources as a means of bettering the nation's standard of living.

THE President spoke on May 20 before a big crowd at the plaza of Basilan City on the second day of his fact-finding tour of Western Mindanao. He said that he was highly impressed by the peace and order-prevailing in Zamboanga and by the readiness of the people there to contribute their share to the country's economic development. The President visited in the afternoon the extensive holdings of the University of the Philippines in Basilan Island and discussed plans for speeding up production on the 10,000 hectares of land grant to the State University. The University's rubber plantation has now 400,000 trees. The President also went through vast rubber plantation of the American Rubber Co. and the Basilan Plantation and the Basilan Lumber Co. holdings. The steamer *Apo* left Basilan City at midnight of May 20 and arrived at Jolo at about 9 a.m. on May 21.

IN the presence of the President and of thousands of people who greeted the Chief Executive in their colorful costumes, 40 Moro outlaws and dissidents surrendered to Brig. Gen. Calixto Duque at the high school stadium at noon of May 21. The President counseled them to forget partisan warfare and urged them to devote their attention to the solution of our problem to provide livelihood to our people. In the afternoon, after visiting the provincial jail in Jolo, the President headed for Siasi and the Turtle Islands.

THE President spent two hours on May 22 visiting Taganak Island, most populated of the Turtle Island group. The President visited the marker on the spot where the Philippine flag was raised during the ceremonies at the turnover by the British of the sovereignty of the Turtle Islands to the Philippine government. He also inspected the deposits of turtle eggs whose collection and sale are now undertaken by the Government, and looked into the island's main industry—copra. The President also visited the second biggest island in the group, Bagoan where most of the turtle eggs are gathered. He spent here another hour inspecting the turtle egg industry.

SANDAKAN, North Borneo, turned out en masse to give a rousing welcome to President Quirino and party on their arrival on May 22. At the dinner given by the British community in the evening, President Quirino and Governor Sir Ralph Hone spoke on the necessity of united efforts of freedom-loving peoples to fight communism. Both said that the Philippines and North Borneo are so closely situated that the threat to the security of one endangers the other.

THE President's party left Sandakan at 10 a.m. on May 23 after a successful goodwill visit to British North Borneo. The local Filipino community, the natives, and the officials braved a heavy downpour to see the presidential party off.

PRESIDENT Quirino startled officials and populace of the little town of Cagayan de Sulu when the *S.S. Apo* dropped in unexpectedly early in the evening of May 23. The principal purpose of the President's visit to this isolated spot in the Sulu seas was to check up on the reports that Cagayan de Sulu is one of the principal bases of operation of a big smuggling syndicate that operates in Hongkong, Sandakan, and Southern Philippines. Town officials disclaimed knowledge of big scale smuggling, as they said they have no way of checking up where cargoes leaving Cagayan are bound for. The President ordered Captain Jose Francisco of the Philippine Navy who was with the party to station permanent patrol launch there to keep watch on that port.

FROM Cagayan de Sulu, the presidential party sailed to Brooks Point, the southernmost tip of Palawan and alleged gateway for smugglers from Singapore. In a conference with town officials that night of May 24, the President was pleased to find out that the immigrants from Luzon and eastern Visayas are pouring into Palawan. The Presidential yacht left Brooks Point at 8 o'clock that same night for Puerto Princesa.

ADDRESSING a big crowd that welcomed him at Puerto Princesa in the morning of May 25, the President announced that the development of the rich agricultural, mining and fishing areas of Palawan would be included in the national plan of economic mobilization in connection with the program of financial and technical assistance to be rendered to the country by the ECA. He also bared the Government plan to transfer to Mindanao the Iwahig Penal Colony located nearby to help accelerate the cultivation of virgin lands in other parts of the country, particularly Mindanao.

THE presidential party returned to Manila Friday noon, May 25, on board A the presidential plane *Laong Laan*. At the cabinet meeting held on the day of his arrival, the President acted swiftly to implement his findings during his tour of Western Mindanao and the islands in the Sulu group. He informed the Cabinet of his desire to establish trade between the Philippines and Borneo which would help to put an end to the big scale smuggling between Sandakan and Jolo. During the cabinet meeting, the President designated Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon as acting secretary of Labor in the absence of Secretary Jose Figueras who was scheduled to leave by plane for Geneva the next day, to attend the ILO conference. He also signed Proclamation No. 253 designating the period from July 4 to July 10, 1951, as Fifth Anniversary Week.

SPEAKING before GSP leaders and delegates who paid their respects to the Chief Executive on May 26 as a fitting climax to the observance of the eleventh anniversary of the organization, the President called on girl scout-leaders and delegates to contribute to the establishment of a strong government through the promotion of civic consciousness and the economic development of the country. The President also signed, in their presence Senate Bill No. 252, authorizing the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to hold annually one special race for the benefit of the girl scout organization, and Senate Bill No. 262, creating the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization National Commission of the Philippines. On the same day Proclamation No. 254 fixing the value of the Canadian dollar at P1.923124, Philippine currency, was also signed by the President.

Further control of prices of important materials was ordered by the President on May 26 when he signed Executive Order No. 442 fixing the ceiling prices of flour, drugs, medicines and household remedies.

THE President inducted Florencio Selga as chief of the Constabulary with the rank of brigadier general in a brief ceremony held at the council of state room on May 28. On the same day, the President issued Proclamation No. 255 prescribing qualifications in the selection of trainees to be called for military training. He also signed Executive Order No. 441 which includes the manager of the Metropolitan Water District in the membership of the Fire Prevention Board, under Group One (Government). This new order amends Executive Orders Nos. 315 and 416 pertaining to the Fire Prevention Board.

ON May 29, the Cabinet approved the creation of a three-man committee to fix reasonable price for the purchase of firearms deposited by local firearms dealers with the Philippine constabulary at Camp Crame. In view of a directive issued on December 7, 1949, prohibiting the sale to private persons of firearms of higher caliber than twenty-two, the chief of constabulary required that all arms and ammunition above caliber 22 be deposited with the PC. Executive Order Mo. 443 increasing and setting up new ceiling prices for American and Canadian flours, imported textiles, galvanized fittings, mild steel flat bars, angle bars, galvanized plain wire, reinforcing mild steel bars, and commercial quality and new billet steel ASTM A-15-39, was signed by the President on May. 29. The new executive order amends Executive Orders Nos. 343, 373, 4C8, 421, and 427.

THE President signed on May 30 the *ad interim* appointment of Ambassador Domingo Imperial as chairman of the Commission on Elections vice Vicente de Vera, deceased. At noon of the same day, the President administered the oath of office to Luis Manalang as acting director of the newly created Placement Bureau of the Department of Labor.

ON May 31, at 5 o'clock sharp, the President received the credentials of the new British Minister Frank S. Gibbs in presentation ceremonies held at the Malacañan ceremonial hall. (The full texts of the speeches of the British Minister and the President are printed in full on pp. 2285 and 2286.) Earlier in the morning, the President conferred with Public Works Secretary Sotero Baluyut who accompanied a representative of the contractor-firm in charge of

the building of the permanent grandstand on the Luneta. The President ordered the grandstand finished in time for July 4.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: June, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President accepted with regret on June 1 the resignation of Daniel Aguinaldo, managing director of the PRISCO, effective at the close of business on May 31, 1951. The President on the same day designated Undersecretary of Commerce Saturnino Mendinueto as acting chairman of the PRISCO in the absence of Commerce Secretary Cornelia Balmaceda.

Also on the same day, the Cabinet decided to standardize the salaries of officials and employees of Government corporations, starting with radical slashing of the salaries of officials of the PRISCO. Moreover, the Cabinet approved the renaming of the Santa Cruz Bridge to General MacArthur Bridge, in honor of General MacArthur who liberated the Philippines from the Japanese:

ON June 2, the President approved the allotment of a total sum of ₱3,413,365 for the operation and maintenance of various public elementary classes throughout the country for the fiscal year 1951. The total sum, recommended by Secretary of Education Teodoro Evangelista in several supplemental special budgets, is chargeable to the lump-sum appropriation of ₱130,827,988 authorized in Executive Order No. 392 for the needs of the Bureau of Public Schools. Before noon on the same day, the President inducted Brig. Gen. Calixto Duque as chief of staff of the AFP with the permanent rank of Major General, to succeed Major General Mariano N. Castañeda who volunteered to resign on his return from the United States as a member of the military mission headed by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo.

THE President on June 3 fixed June 30, 1951 as the time limit for the reconstruction of applications for retirement under Act No. 2589, alleged to have been filed before December 31, 1941. The day, June 3, was spent by the President planting *malungay* in his Novaliches farm.

PROMPTED by reports in certain section of the press that "business extortion seems to be well on the way to becoming an integral part of the policeman's duties," the President ordered on June 4 the investigation of alleged extortion rackets by some members of the Manila police force and the police forces in certain municipalities in four provinces.

AT the Cabinet meeting on June 5 the President signed nine bills passed during the regular session of Congress, after consultation with members of the Cabinet. On the recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense, the promotion of 74 officers of the AFP to the permanent rank of lieutenant colonels were approved on the same day by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, by authority of the President. In the afternoon, the President received some 200 delegates of the Philippine Public Schools Teachers Association who paid a courtesy call and pledged their loyalty and confidence in the administration, following the opening of their 5-day convention in Manila in the morning.

THE President authorized on June 6 the release of ₱1,495,036 for the payment of unpaid balances of the gratuities of officials and employees of the Government who had been laid off on account of the abolition of their positions in the government reorganization. He also signed Republic Act No. 632, creating a Philippine Sugar Institute, a semi-public corporation to conduct research work in all phases of the sugar industry with a view to lowering cost and improving methods of production, and an administrative order creating a Philippine committee on matters of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), to bolster the economic development program of the country. In the evening, the President issued a statement expressing his grief on the death of Senator Tomas Confesor.

ON June 8, the President signed an administration-sponsored bill granting honorary citizenships to former Senator Milliard E. Tydings of Maryland and to former Representative John McDuffie of Alabama in recognition of their valuable work in the United States Congress on matters affecting the Philippines. He also issued a proclamation on that day postponing the period declared as National Mental Health Week from June 24-30 to July 22-28 this year. Moreover during the Cabinet meeting on the same day, the President signed the *interim* appointments of three foreign affairs officials, four justices of the peace, two auxiliary justices of the peace, and one acting city attorney.

Jose Imperial was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the legation in Djakarta; Domingo Pidlaan, as consul general in San Francisco, and Yusuf Abubakar, as consul in the new consulate in Singapore.

The President lauded the Monetary Board in meting out more severe punishment for Ceferino Eugenio, assistant superintendent of banks, than what the investigator, Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon, recommended. The President urged that department heads should not hesitate to clean house when necessary, and directed his Cabinet to take more vigorous steps in the current house cleaning.

ON June 9, the President signed Executive Order No. 446, authorizing the PRISCO to import without quota as quickly as possible certain commodities; Executive Order No. 447, fixing new ceiling prices for imported foodstuffs; Executive Order No. 448, amending Executive Orders Nos. 383 and 427 and repealing Executive Order No. 437 — all pertaining to the ceiling prices of imported construction materials; and Executive Order No. 449, setting up new ceiling prices for school supplies.

THE President signed on June 11 six bills passed during the last session of Congress fixing the salaries of provincial fiscals, providing for the protection of commercial trademarks, constituting certain cities into separate school divisions, and creating three new municipalities in Masbate province. He also signed the ad *interim* appointment of Dr. Marcos M. Alicante as director of the newly created Bureau of Soil Conservation. On the same day the President issued orders to various department heads of the Government to recall and cancel all appointments of special agents appointed without compensation.

In the afternoon, the President gave a reception in honor of the visiting Spanish air minister, General Eduardo Gallarza, who arrived in Manila on the invitation of the Philippine Government on the occasion of the commemoration of the anniversary of the first Manila-Madrid flight. In the evening, General Gallarza presented President Quirino during the palace reception *El Grand Collar de la Isabela Catolica*, the highest decoration that the Spanish government can confer to heads of other countries. The complete set of decorations were entrusted to the Department of Foreign Affairs for safekeeping until the Congress authorizes the President to accept them, pursuant to a provision of the Constitution.

THE President authorized on June 12 the city government of Manila to expropriate and subdivide for resale to *bona fide* tenants a parcel of land located north of the Estero de Vitas and west of Juan Luna Street in Tondo, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 409. He also authorized a conference in Cabanatuan City of Central Luzon provincial officials and commanders of battalion combat teams of the Philippine Army to discuss ways of combating cattle rustling and of establishing peace and order in Central Luzon.

In recognition of meritorious services rendered by deserving reserve officers, the President signed a bill on June 12 authorizing the appointment of reserve officers into the regular force of the AFP above the rank of second lieutenant. Two other bills signed by the President on the same day are amendments to Republic Act No. 296 so as to authorize justices of the peace and judges of the municipal court of chartered cities to have concurrent jurisdiction with the courts of first instance on cases of adoption and on the appointments of guardians for persons incapacitated because of minor age or of mental delinquency.

ON June 13, the President ordered the suspension of the chairman and the administrative officer of the Philippine Veterans Board and authorized Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay to suspend nine other officers and employees of the same office, following the receipt of the report of the preliminary investigation of the Philippine Veterans Board Investigating Committee on the reported anomalies and irregularities committed in that office. Major General Guillermo B. Francisco was immediately designated by the President as acting-chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board to replace Colonel Juan Benitez and Hilario Hilario as acting member and administrative officer in place of Major Gervasio Francisco.

On his 32nd monthly radio chat on June 15, the President was happy to report to the people that “the country’s economic outlook is never better in years since liberation * * *.” That “today, as we prepare for the 5th anniversary of our Republic, we can point out tangible indications of its growth and vigor, its increased chances of riding whatever storms and upheavals the future may hold in store.”

THE President, before his midnight deadline on June 16 approved a total of 78 bills passed in the last regular session of Congress and vetoed 12 bills. Among the vetoed bills was House Bill No. 2031 which sought to grant to the Philippine Exposition Inc. a franchise to hold and conduct national expositions and carnivals in Manila. This bill, the President thought, was not in keeping with the present difficulties of the Government.

IN a speech delivered at Fort William Mckinley on June 18 before officers and men of the 10th BCT who had just returned from the Korean battlefields and of the 20th BCT who were leaving soon to replace the battle-weary Filipino soldiers still in Korea, the President called upon members of the Armed Forces to fight communism on all fronts. He also stressed the necessity of ending the campaign against dissidents as soon as possible so that the people could concentrate in the common task of nation-building.

THE President on June 19 signed Executive Order No. 453, establishing rules and regulations to control, curtail, regulate, or prohibit the exportation or re-exportation of certain materials and articles from the Philippines.

The President received on June 20 on behalf of the Philippine government a check for ₱500,000 from James Mel. Henderson, Philippine Alien Property Administrator of the United States, in turn-over ceremonies held at Malacañan's Council of State room. This latest transfer was the last to be made by the PAPA which is being deactivated as of June 30, 1951. The amount represented part of the proceeds of vested property. On the same day the President received the credentials of Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi as the first Apostolic Nuncio of His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a colorful presentation ceremony in Malacañan. (SEE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECHES IN THE HISTORICAL. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS.)

THE Cabinet approved on June 20 the renewal for another year of the trade agreement between the Philippines and occupied Japan through the SCAP. The present trade agreement with Japan expires on June 30, 1951. The trade between Japan and the Philippines has a maximum limit set at \$50,000,000.

THE President and members of the 15-man committee on the Japanese peace treaty met for one and a half hours on June 22 and agreed to stand firm on the Philippine demands for reparations against Japan. It was agreed that the Philippines will insist on payment by Japan of reparations amounting to \$8 billion as a result of losses suffered by the Filipino people during the last war. On the same day, the President also instructed members of the Cabinet to start preparing lists of officials and employees in their respective departments who have already attained the age of 65 years or more. A new act passed by Congress retires employees of the Government upon reaching 65 years.

IN his conference with newly elected officers of the Philippine Veterans Legion on June 23, the President signified his desire to improve further the peace and order condition in the country so that he could lift the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* long before the forthcoming elections. Said the President: "I do not want the people to think the party in power will take advantage of the writ suspension for electioneering purposes."

In his conference at breakfast on that day with John M. Allison, treaty expert of the U. S. State Department who arrived in the Philippines the previous day, the President was most emphatic that the final draft of the Japanese peace treaty should include the right of the Philippines to reparations and that Japan should be made to accept that right. The President did not budge an inch from the previous position against the resurgence of Japan as a military power.

ON June 24, the President directed the members of the Cabinet to study and make recommendations on a proposal for the creation of an anti-crime commission as contained in a memorandum submitted by Mrs. Asuncion A. Perez, administrator of social welfare, to the Chief Executive. The memorandum also proposes the promulgation of a code of official conduct for the official branch of the government and another set for the legislators. There is already established a code of conduct for the members of the judiciary.

THE President received on June 25 Rear Admiral Richard H. Cruzen who called to pay his respects following his arrival in the Philippines the previous day to replace Rear Admiral Francis P. Old as commander of the United States naval forces in the Philippines. On the same day, the President reorganized the Deportation Board with the following as members: the Undersecretary of Justice as chairman, and the Solicitor General, and an authorized

representative of the Secretary of National Defense as members. This reorganization was effected by Executive Order No. 455 signed by the President that day.

THE President, addressing some 250 telecommunication bureau employees who marched to Malacañan on June 26 to petition for salary increases, announced in a voice heavy with emotion: "I will do my best to find a way to grant your petition under present financial difficulties of the Government... It is so bad your case had not been brought to my attention earlier." The President was deeply touched upon hearing the plight of low-salaried government radio and telecom operators and expressed surprise to learn that many of these skilled workers were still receiving, as low as ₱60 a month.

TO support the program of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the President directed on June 26 the Commissioner of the Budget to release ₱100,000 as the Philippines' contribution to this humanitarian organization. The Philippines' contribution to this organization in 1949 was ₱400,000. The Philippine contribution this year will be paid in copra to be purchased with the authorized amount, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Cabinet on June 22 last.

At the regular meeting of the Cabinet on June 26, the President brought to the attention of his department secretaries certain inaccuracies in some of the textbooks being used by some private schools. Education Secretary Teodoro Evangelista was directed to look into the matter in order to find out what the Textbooks Board is doing in allowing such inaccuracies.

THE President confirmed on June 27 the sentence of life imprisonment imposed by the Military Commission on former Lt Gen. Shigenori Kuroda, former commander of the Japanese army of occupation and head of the military administration, for atrocities committed by men under his command in the Philippines. The President also ordered on that same day the outright removal of Primo L. Cabrera, city attorney of Ormoc, for "gross misconduct by prostituting his public office." The Secretary of Justice, who was ordered to investigate the case, recommended the dismissal of the indicted official. Also on the same day, the President issued Proclamation No. 262, designating the period from August 19 to September-19, 1951, as Anti-Tuberculosis Month, and authorized the Philippine Tuberculosis Society to conduct a national fund and educational drive during the said period. In the evening, Malacañan gave a luncheon in honor of Rear Admiral Francis P. Old, who was leaving for a new post in Chicago, and of Rear Admiral Richard H. Cruzen, new commander of the U. S. naval forces in the Philippines.

ON June 28, the President administered the oath of office to Yusup Abubakar as Philippine Consul designate to Malaya and British North Borneo. The President also approved the general appropriation bill on that day with the exception of several items, mostly general provisions. The amount of ₱386,171,490 appropriated remains materially the same, with the reduction of ₱7,200 which represents the salary of the Director of Industrial Safety whose item was abolished, as the Bureau of Industrial Safety was abolished by Executive Order No. 392 (reorganization of the government).

THE President had a long conference on June 29 with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and Import Control Chairman Montilebano over the implementation of the new import control law. The President will issue on July 1 an executive order creating a new import control machinery to take over the functions of the import control office which will automatically go out of operation when the old law creating it expires on June 30.

The Cabinet on June 29 accepted in principle the proposal of the U. S. State Department to send to the Philippines about 60 teachers of English, agriculture, and shop work, to be assigned in the different provinces where they will work for a period of two years. These teachers will be attached to the office of the division superintendent of schools. They will spend most of their time with elementary school teachers in order to help them in their work. There will be no financial responsibility on the part of the Philippine Government.

THE President in a statement issued on June 30 on the death of Dean Francisco Benitez said: "I mourn with great sorrow the death of Dean Benitez... In his death the country lost one of its intellectual leaders and patriots."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: July, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President signed on July 1 Executive Order No. 456, creating the Import Control Commission composed of Alfredo Montelibano, chairman, and Alfonso Calalang and Francisco Ortigas, members, to assist the President, in the execution of Republic Act No. 650 for the regulation of imports into the Philippines. The next day Malacañan announced the appointment of Demetrio Santos, import control commissioner of the defunct ICA, as executive officer of the Import Control Commission. The President also signed Administrative Order No. 159, prescribing the policies, rules, and regulations for the enforcement of import controls.

ON July 2, the President sounded a general appeal for peaceful and orderly elections and urged provincial executive committees of all political parties to hold conventions to nominate men who could best serve the interest of the country during this period of economic development, in addressing a large delegation of Batangas political leaders who paid a courtesy call at Malacañan. President Quirino approved on the same day the dismissal, for hazing, of four cadets from the Philippine Military Academy.

EARLY in the morning of July 3, the President left Malacañan to attend the traditional annual parade and review of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Fort McKinley in honor of the commander-in-chief. The President paid glowing tribute to officers and men of the AFP for having restored peace and order in major portions of the country and for having shown to the world that democracy works in this part of the world.

Before noon of July 3, the President administered the oaths of office to the members of the newly-created Import Control Commission and its executive officer. In the afternoon, the Chief Executive was host to the Fifth Women's Civic Assembly at a tea party held at Malacañan park on the occasion of the awarding of medals of merit to seven outstanding citizens "who make (Filipino) life better and richer." The President told the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines that the awards of merit given to meritorious citizens of the land embodies the "high estimations of this country" for its meritorious citizens.

THE ceremony in connection with the pinning of 51 stars on the presidential flag took place in the Malacañan Palace ceremonial hall in the morning of July 4. The solemn act symbolized the solidarity and the support of each of the 51 provinces of the Philippines to the Republic, the President explained at the start of the ceremony. The President was the recipient that day of many congratulatory messages to the Filipino people from various rulers of democratic countries on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Republic.

Speaking before 200,000 people who witnessed the parade on the Luneta in the afternoon, the President said that "we can now tell the world that in the first five years of its life, our Republic has successfully stood the doubts of its bystanders and the untruths of its enemies," because of the intrinsic integrity of the nation. In the evening the President gave a state dinner at the Malacañan Palace. (*See HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, pp. 3404-3408, for full text of the speech.*)

THE President ordered Director Jose P. Dans of the Bureau of Lands on July 5 to rush the subdivision work on landed estates purchased by the Government for distribution to tenants to implement the land-for-the-landless program of the Government. The order was given during the President's visit to the agricultural exhibits at the agriculture building Taft Avenue.

IN a stirring address keynoting the meeting of the National Committee of the Liberal Party held at the Malacañan park on July 6, the President called on his party men to "deliver ourselves to that all consuming thought of putting the interest of the country above personal ambitions so that this nation can be stronger and happier." In the Cabinet meeting held in the evening, the President took steps to discourage Moros in Mindanao from making their annual pilgrimage to Mecca this year. The Cabinet decided to do away with the practice of engaging one peso a year men in the government and to have the old Botanical Garden restored. The Cabinet also approved the plan to construct a boulevard that would connect the Luneta grandstand with the Ayala Boulevard.

AT the final conference of the representatives of labor and management at the recreation hall of the Malacañan park on July 7, the President pledged himself anew to the cause of labor, saying that if any wrong or injustice is committed against laborers, he will, be their greatest champion and defender. Calling on labor to contribute to the economic growth and development of the country, President Quirino expressed the hope that troubles arising between labor and management be avoided as much as possible while the country is concentrating its attention to the tremendous task of nation-building. On the same day, the President removed from office Director of Labor Felipe Jose in accordance with the recommendation of the Integrity Board.

ON July 9, the President approved the release of ₱9,107,775 for the operation and maintenance of the existing elementary classes in Negros Occidental, Quezon, and Sorsogon, acting upon the recommendation of "Education Secretary Teodoro Evangelista. On the same day, the President suspended Councilor Amado Hernandez of Manila pending final disposition of the criminal case filed against him in the Manila courts.

JULY 10 became memorable because of two significant events—it marked the dedication of the United Nations Plaza at Wallace Field in the morning and the opening of the MacArthur bridge in the afternoon. On both occasions, Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez, represented the President. She raised the Philippine flag at the flag ceremony during the morning affair and cut the ceremonial ribbon at west lane of the bridge during the afternoon ceremony.

On the same day, the President had a long conference with William Allen, chief of the ECA mission to the Philippines; Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno; and Chairman Jose Yulo of PHILCUSA to take up among other things the distribution of fertilizers expected to arrive on the weekend from abroad under the ECA aid program.

In the evening, tired and exhausted because of the series of conferences he had during the day with officials of the ECA and the newly created Import Control Commission and provincial governors, the President designated Vice President Lopez to represent him at the traditional reception given at Malacañan in honor of diplomatic and consular corps in Manila.

THE President did not receive any visitor on July 11, as he cleared his desk of a backlog of pending state papers which had accumulated during the past week because of his schedule of engagements in connection with the observation of Independence Day and Achievement Week. He also started to study on that day the draft of the Japanese treaty as released by Washington.

ON July 12, the President conferred with Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo for an hour to discuss further the new Japanese peace treaty in preparation for consultation with the 15-man committee scheduled to meet the next day at the Manila Hotel. The President had his first conference with Secretary Romulo on the peace treaty on July 10. Earlier in the morning, the President conferred with Economic Administrator Salvador Araneta over the organization of the NARIC and the establishment of a Sugar Institute of the Philippines as provided in one of the new laws passed during the last session of Congress.

THE President's Peace Treaty Committee met on July 13 to discuss in detail the revised peace treaty draft as submitted to the Philippine government. It was decided that a new sub-committee of six be appointed to meet the next day and submit its report to the plenary committee on July 16. During the Cabinet meeting held in the evening of July 13, the President created an interdepartmental committee on cottage industries to speed up the country's industrialization. The President also signed a proclamation fixing the value of the Argentine peso at ₱0.40 Philippine currency.

THE President vigorously reasserted on July 14 the Philippine right to demand reparations from Japan, saying that this country was not asking for its "pound of flesh" but merely for the right of an innocent people to expect some kind of satisfaction for the spiritual and material ravages wrought on them by the last war. This reassertion was made by the President in an extemporaneous speech before a large crowd gathered at the turnover ceremony of the newly reconstructed Tonsuya bridge, renamed after the President, in Malabon, Rizal.

IN his 33rd monthly radio chat on July 15, the President reaffirmed his strong opposition to the draft of the proposed Japanese peace treaty and declared that the Philippines cannot be a party to a transaction which insures all possible assistance to an aggressor. (*See HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, pp. 3408-3411, for full text of the speech.*)

THE Peace Treaty Committee met in plenary session on July 16 and decided that “there is absolutely no recession in our stand that the treaty is unacceptable.” Secretary Romulo told the President that the committee studied “all the steps that we will take in the face of whatsoever contingency may arise as a result of this treaty.”

On the same day, the President approved the allocation of \$137 million to cover imports for the remainder of the year in the course of a long conference with import control commissioners at Malacañan. It was further decided during the conference to have all records of import licenses issued by the PRISCO turned over to the ICC which would handle the issuance of all import licenses.

THE Council of State, the highest advisory body of the Government, unanimously approved on July 17 the stand taken by the President and his 15-man committee against the acceptance of the latest draft of the Japanese peace treaty. In the meantime, opposition to the peace treaty draft continued to mount as indicated by the telegrams received the last two days from various groups in the country branding the U. S. draft of the treaty as “unfair and unjust” to the Philippines.

THE President pressed for the realization of his original idea of a Pacific Pact in an after-luncheon speech that he made on July 19 in honoring at Malacañan Governor Thomas Dewey of New York. Governor Dewey in his response, agreed with President Quirino and pledged his support to have it carried out. He also paid tribute to the manner the Philippine government rehabilitated the country which attracted world attention. (*See HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, pp. 3411-3413, for full texts of the speeches.*)

On the same day, the President named five ad interim members of the board of directors of the Philippine, Sugar Institute; namely, J. Amado Araneta, Oscar Ledesma, Manuel Elizalde, Ernesto Santos, and Jose L. Manzano.

THE President on July 20 authorized the Collector of Internal Revenue to make public the contents of the income tax returns for 1950 of all members of the Cabinet. In an earlier precedent-setting decision, the President granted permission to the Collector of Internal Revenue to bare his (the President’s) own income tax returns which revealed that the President paid income tax on the salary as Chief Executive despite the fact that he could claim exemption.

THE President received on July 21 from the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines a strong protest against the latest draft of the Japanese peace treaty, stating that it “does not express the Filipino sentiments nor the expression of the free nations of the world that brought about the United Nations” On the same day, the President signed Executive Order No. 459, lifting the control on the prices of all kinds of wheat flour.

THE board of directors of the newly-revived National Rice and Corn Corporation met on July 24 and took up the reorganization of the NARIC in accordance with the new law recreating the corporation. The board also approved the importation of 25,000 tons of rice from Siam to bolster the local supply of this staple commodity.

THE 15-man peace treaty committee, after listening to the report of Foreign Secretary Romulo on the status of the conversation between Manila and Washington, agreed unanimously to insist on its original stand that the draft of the treaty in its present form is unacceptable, it was announced at Malacañan on July 25.

THE President authorized on July 25 the release of public works funds amounting to ₱825,000 for the construction and repair of public roads and bridges in different parts of the country. He also declared August 20, 1951, a special public holiday in honor of the late President Manuel L. Quezon whose 73rd birthday anniversary falls on Sunday, August 19.

ON July 26, the President approved the supplemental special budget of ₱9 million of the Bureau of Public Works for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of national and provincial roads and bridges as well as the

streets and bridges of chartered cities. This amount is chargeable against the highways special fund which is from the proceeds of tax on motor fuels.

FOR the first time the Cabinet held its meeting in the kiosk of the President's country home in Novaliches, Rizal, on July 27. It was Secretary Romulo who suggested the holding of the meeting in Novaliches, according to the President in his opening remarks. The Cabinet approved in that meeting the maintenance of elements in the Armed Forces of the Philippines for service as a United Nations unit. The President, also during that Cabinet meeting, signed Executive Orders Nos. 460 and 461, fixing the ceiling prices of imported essential commodities.

THE President on July 28 fired Bernardo Bagamaspad, provincial treasurer of Cotabato, for the huge losses suffered by the Philippine National Bank in special crop loans he granted to unqualified and insolvent borrowers when he was ex officio agent of the PNB in that province.

IN an extemporaneous speech delivered after the luncheon given by the YLAC on July 29 at the Malacañan park recreation hall in honor of the President, the Chief Executive called on the members of the Young Ladies Association of Charity and the women of the Philippines to exert their influence in helping purify the holding of elections in November. The President also thanked the YLAC for presenting him with a plaque of gratitude.

THE President conferred on July 30 with members of the Commission on Elections for the purpose of coordinating various agencies of the Government in the maintenance of clean, honest, and orderly elections. On the same day, the President approved the release of ₱1,888,825 to be allotted to the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation and the NDC for the construction of ocean-going vessels. Of the amount, ₱600,000 is for the NASSCO for the shipyard and graving dock, and ₱1,288,825, for the construction of ocean-going vessels of the NDC. The amount represents the proceeds of the sale of floating bonds by the Central Bank for industrial development of the country.

ADDRESSING the provincial governors and city mayors at their seminar at the Council of State room on July 31, the President said that "whether we sign a treaty or not, we will send a delegation to that conference (in San Francisco) to make known to the world the wishes of the Filipino people on the Japanese peace treaty." The President emphasized the necessity of adopting a solid stand on two matters affecting the country's security; namely, the Japanese peace treaty and the projected Pacific Pact. By unanimous vote, on the same day, the provincial governors and mayors of chartered cities approved a resolution expressing their unqualified endorsement of the stand taken by the President of the Philippines on the provisions of the Japanese peace treaty, particularly on the question of reparations and national security, and approval of the steps taken, by the President to enter into a mutual defense Pacific Pact. The resolution was passed after the governors and mayors assembled heard President Quirino and Secretary Romulo speak on the security of the state and the stability of the nation on that first day of their seminar on these questions.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: August, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President approved on August 1 the release of ₱28,000 from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes fund as aid to the health service in Manila and to the dependents' ward of the V. Luna Hospital. Of the amount, ₱18 000 will be spent for operation of day nurseries, traveling free clinic, and public health education unit of the city during the current fiscal year, and ₱10,000 will be spent for the maintenance of the dependents' ward of the V. Luna Hospital. The President also appointed Daniel Mercado and Gabriel A. Daza as ad interim members of the National Power Board and the Board of Directors of the rational Shipyard and Steel Corporation, respectively. Daza took the place of Felix Padilla who resigned.

ALSO on August 1, the President received Dr. Roland R. Renne, newly appointed chief of the U. S. Economic Cooperation Administration in the Philippines who arrived the previous day. Folio wing the courtesy call of the ECA mission chief, the President received the officials of the newly revived National Rice and Corn Corporation who consulted him on the proposed importation of rice from Thailand to insure adequate supply of rice to nonproducing regions of the country.

ON August 2, the President told the provincial governors and city mayors who came to Malacañan to confer with the Chief Executive before returning to their respective provinces after their two-day convention-seminar that he would not stand for intrigues in the party that would destroy "what we have built in the past four years."

ON August 3, the President held a series of prolonged conferences with Ambassador Myron M. Cowen and Minister Fiske Harrington of the U. S. Embassy presumably on the coming San Francisco conference on the Japanese peace treaty signing early in September. Present at the conferences was Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo who accompanied the American representative to Malacañan. The President instructed Secretary Romulo on the same day to accept the US-UK invitation to the Philippines to attend the San Francisco conference.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 462 creating the municipalities of Tacurong and M'lang in Cotabato was signed on August 3 by the President, upon the recommendation of the provincial board of Cotabato.

ON August 4, the President declared August 17, 1951, as a special public holiday in the sub-province of Aurora, Quezon Province. This is the date of the inauguration of the sub-province. The President also reappointed Dr. Gumersindo Garcia as ad interim member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines for another term of seven years, expiring on August 6, 1958, and Dr. Nicanor B. Padilla as member of the Board of Medical Examiners for another term of three years, expiring August 7, 1954. Lt. Col. Eduardo R. Montilla was appointed ad interim member of the Philippine Veterans Board, while Mangorsi Mindalano was appointed ad interim city secretary of Dansalan City.

THE President served a stern warning on August 6 to all prospective candidates against cheating in examinations given by the government boards of examiners. He ordered the cancellation of the papers of six examinees who had been caught cheating during the examination given last February by the board of examiners for mechanical engineers. On the same day, Jose M. Fernandez was reappointed member of the Board of Examiners for Marine Engineers for another term of three years expiring on August 21, 1954.

In a circular sent to all provincial governors on August 6, the President directed provincial executives to exercise utmost caution in suspending elective officials during the pre-election days and to avoid interference in the lawful exercise of the right of suffrage to insure free, honest, and orderly elections on November 13, 1951. Henceforth, the circular stated, until the coming elections are over, no municipal elective official shall be suspended for flagrant violations of law or serious irregularities in office demanding immediate action, and approval by the Office of the President of the suspension of an erring elective official must be secured by telegram or letter, specifying the charges, the official's defense, and the findings of the provincial governor in the preliminary investigation of the case, and the exceptional reasons why the official should be suspended.

THE President on August 7, in the course of his conference with the board of directors of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, Inc., signified his desire to reconstruct, prewar scenic spots in the country destroyed by the war so as to attract tourists to the Philippines. The President disclosed his desire to rebuild the pre-war Mehan Gardens, to transplant shade trees on the Luneta, and to revive certain tourist spots in Baguio, the Bicol regions, and in the Visayas and Mindanao.

On the same day, the President instructed his Cabinet anew "to clean house" in their respective departments, to get rid of employees and officials who have been found not only inefficient but also corrupt. The President also inquired from Secretary Teodoro Evangelista about the progress of his campaign against diploma mills. Evangelista informed the President that he was going not only after the diploma mills but also after the root cause of the existence of such institutions.

THE President approved on August 9 the release to various charity institutions of the amount of ₱37,797 from the charity fund of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The next day the President authorized further the release of ₱78,850 from the available balance in the charity fund of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for distribution to puericulture centers all over the country, and for aid to hospitals and UNICEF Mission projects in the Philippines.

ON August 10, the President received the Export-Import Bank Mission which had arrived in the Philippines six days previously to survey the economic situation in the country in connection with a projected loan to finance the Philippine industrial projects. The President expressed great pleasure over the mission's visit to the country to look into its economy and to offer the credit facilities of the E-I Bank. The President also met on that day the 15-member committee on the Japanese peace treaty to discuss the status of the negotiations with the U. S. Government in connection with the draft of the treaty. The President also discussed with the committee the renewal of the negotiations on the mutual defense pact with the United States which he initiated in 1949.

THE Cabinet at its meeting on August 10 turned down the petition of the Chinese ambassador to allow Chinese residents in the Philippines to lease agricultural lands, on the ground that the laws of the Philippines prohibit aliens from leasing or purchasing agricultural lands. The Cabinet also approved the purchase of loose firearms and ammunition by the Department of National Defense at the prices set by law, from the peace fund and from available appropriation of the Armed Forces. It is estimated that about P4 million will be needed for the purpose.

THE President signed on August 11, Proclamation No. 272, declaring certain parcels of land in Ilocos Norte as timber land.

THE President told the conventionists of the Liberal Party of Rizal province gathered at the Santa Ana dancing pavilion on August 12 that he will be to the field "to guarantee that there will be clean, honest, and orderly elections, to dispel misgivings which might have been caused by his statement to the governors and mayors during their recent convention that he was going to take to the political field.

THE period from August 13 to September 12, 1951, was declared by the President on August 13 as "Philippine Tourist Promotion Month." The Chief Executive called upon all government offices and instrumentalities as well as all private individuals and entities to participate in the proper observance of the period.

THE President gave a state dinner at Malacañan on August 14 in honor of the Australian Minister for External Affairs and Mrs. Richard G. Casey. As the President was indisposed, Vice-President Fernando Lopez represented him at the dinner. For the second day the Chief Executive did not receive any callers. He spent the day at his private home on Dewey Boulevard, going over important state papers and preparing his regular monthly radio chat to be broadcast the next day.

In his 34th monthly radio chat broadcast on August 15, the President, in plain language, laid before the nation the following four-point objective of the Philippines on the proposed Japanese peace treaty:

1. A categorical acknowledgement of Japan's war guilt and her accountability for the damage wrought on the Philippines.
2. Payment of the people's just claims.
3. A guarantee that Japan will never again emerge as a military power to constitute a menace to the peace and security of the Philippines and Asia.
4. A Pacific security pact to forestall such a threat.

THE Council of State at its meeting on August 16 held in the President's private residence on Dewey Boulevard, unanimously approved the various steps taken by the Chief Executive in connection with the Japanese peace treaty. In the morning of that day, the President received Richard G. Casey, visiting Australian Minister of External Affairs, who called to pay his respect to the President in his private residence, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo. The Australian Minister was pleasantly surprised to realize that the Huk situation in the country is under control, contrary to what he had been hearing and reading in newspapers abroad.

MALACAÑAN sustained on August 16 the Cebu City council in imposing additional tax on lumber sold within the city. The Cebu provincial board had disapproved an ordinance passed by the city council which would impose a tax of two-fifths of a centavo for every board foot of lumber sold in the city. The provincial board declared that the city charter does not empower the municipal board to tax the sale of lumber. In sustaining the petition of the Cebu City council to appeal the case, Malacañan cited similar cases in the cities of Butuan and Davao in which the municipal boards have assumed the power to tax the sale of lumber, although this power is not expressly stated in their charters.

THE 1951 Anti-TB Drive was opened by the President on August 17 in a simple ceremony held at his Dewey Boulevard residence. To spark the drive, the President handed a check of ₱15000 to Doña Julia Vda. de Ortigas, president of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, and appealed to the people of the Philippines to carry on a twin program of action in the campaign to fight tuberculosis. Shortly before noon of that day, the President received Major General Albert Pierson, newly designated chief of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG), who called to pay his respects to the President at his Dewey Boulevard residence.

ON August 18, the President issued an executive order authorizing the Price Administration Board, to fix the ceiling prices of commodities for all ports of entry and provincial capitals, as well, as for inland municipalities. Dividing the country into zones and establishing rates of transportation and handling charges, ranging from one to five centavos a pound for the various zones, the executive order empowered the PAB to add these charges to the basic prices of commodities in determining the ceiling prices of the goods.

IN a stirring address which climaxed on August 20, the three-day convention of the Liberal Party to select its senatorial candidates, the President expressed great confidence in the victory of the Liberal Party in the coming elections on the strength of its public record and accomplishments. The three-day convention was keynoted by the speech of Secretary Teodoro Evangelista on the opening day of the convention at the Santa Ana recreation hall on August 18.

ON August 21, the President entertained the delegates to the convention of the Liberal Party at a luncheon at the Malacañan Palace social hall. Members of the Cabinet and the Congress and all official candidates of the Liberal Party were present at the luncheon.

THE President issued on August 21 an executive order making upward revisions in the ceiling prices of canned fish, dairy products, drugs, medicines and household remedies, Manila paper and the textbook, *Silas Marner*, used in the high schools. On the same day, the Cabinet approved immediate payment of gratuity and leave of laid-off employees.

ON August 22, the President issued Executive Order No. 465, reclassifying the provinces of the Philippines on the basis of their average annual revenue during the five consecutive fiscal years ending June 30, 1950. He also recognized the municipalities of Polanco, New Pihan, Alicia, and Liloy in Zamboanga, upon the recommendation of the provincial board of Zamboanga.

THE President on the same day counselled Liberal Party provincial committees to conduct their political campaigns peacefully, and served notice that he would not countenance the use of violence or dishonest means to bring about the victory of LP candidates in the forthcoming elections. This warning was served in the course of the President's informal talks with various provincial delegations which attended the LP national convention and which called at Malacañan before returning to their respective provinces.

THE Cabinet on August 24 approved the liberalization of the teaching hours for government officials and employees, to allow them to teach more than six hours a week, but each case will have to be decided by the Cabinet on its own merits. During this cabinet meeting, the President signed the designation of Colonel Jesus Vargas as acting Vice Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines effective immediately. The retirement of Colonel Amado Bautista from the Government service was also approved by the President during that cabinet meeting. Moreover, he signed Executive Order No. 10, providing instructions to be followed in the conduct of public affairs during the time that the President is out of the Philippines.

ON August 25, the President created a national advisory board on vocational education which shall advise the Secretary of Education on the training and preparation of youth to provide the skilled labor and technical know-how in the nation's projected industrialization and mechanization of agriculture. The board shall be composed of one representative each from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce and Industry, and three private citizens who are eminent in industry, agriculture, and business to be appointed by the President for a term of four years upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Education. The President also issued an executive order on that day, revising Appendix A of Republic Act No. 650, banning the importation of certain commodities and providing procedure of importing goods under ECA authorization. Administrative Order No. 163 was also issued on that day, amending the composition of the Philippine Port Commission, which had been created by Administrative Order No. 13 on October 12, 1946.

In the evening of August 25, the President gave a formal dinner in Malacañan in honor of Major General and Mrs. Leland S. Hobbs and Major General and Mrs. Albert Pierson, outgoing and incoming chiefs of the JUSMAG.

THE President left on August 27 on the PAL flagship *Manila* which would take him and his party to Washington. Speaking to the big crowd composed of top government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and various delegations that he found at the airport waiting to give him and his party a warm send-off, the President expressed "his thanks for the enthusiastic send-off, and explained the great importance of that third trip of his to the United States.

Before the President left for the United States, he signed Executive Order No. 473, creating the Philippine Committee on Geographical Names, and Proclamation No. 273, designating November 16 to December 15, 1951, for the National fund campaign of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines outside Greater Manila. He also signed Executive Order No. 474, defining necessary industries qualified for tax exemption under Republic Act No. 35.

THE President woke up early as his plane neared Wake Island. He landed at Wake Island at 10 o'clock in the morning (5:41 a. m. Manila time) on August 28 and rode in the only automobile in the island while the rest of the party followed in a luxurious Transocean Lines bus for a sightseeing tour. After the tour of Wake Island, the President remarked that the Filipinos are lucky in having fertile and extensive lands.

IN the absence of the President, Vice-President Fernando Lopez presided over the cabinet meetings held at 9 o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays. During the first cabinet meeting presided by the Vice President on August 28, the Cabinet confirmed an agreement between the Philippines and the United Nations providing for the services of a pulp expert.

UPON the President's arrival in San Francisco on August 28, he addressed a large crowd of American officials and Filipinos gathered at the airport, saying: "I consider this trip another opportunity to bring about closer understanding to cement our friendship and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States." He declared that he had come "in a helpful spirit to seek a just and honorable peace with Japan and a common understanding among the allies to secure world peace and security, particularly in Asia."

THE President left San Francisco for Washington, D. C. at 9 o'clock in the evening of August 29 (12 noon, August 30, Manila time). He was in the best of spirit, anticipating the realization of his pet idea of a security framework for the Pacific area. The mutual defense pact between the Philippines and the United States was scheduled to be signed in Washington at 12:22 p.m. of August 30 (12:22 a.m. of August 31, Manila time).

AFTER the signing of the Philippines-United States security pact as per schedule on August 30, noon (or August,31, first hour, Manila time), President Quirino and the signers of the pact were entertained at luncheon at the White House by President Truman. The American President said that the signing of the pact was a historical occasion that bound closer ties between the Philippines and United States. In his response, President Quirino said that he did not come to America merely to witness the historical event but also to be able to thank personally President Truman and, through him, the American people, for their abiding interest in the welfare of the Filipino people. Then he offered a toast to President Truman.

THE first act of the Cabinet in its meeting on August 31 was to approve a resolution congratulating the President for the successful conclusion of the mutual defense pact in Washington, D.C. The Cabinet approved the membership of a committee that will take charge of a reception in honor of the President upon his return to the Philippines.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: September, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President entered Johns Hopkins hospital at 3 a.m., September 1 Manila time (3 p.m., August 31, Baltimore time). He arrived in Baltimore by motor car from Washington, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde, his daughter Vicky, his son-in-law Chito Gonzalez, and members of his staff. He was given a preliminary examination by Dr. Colston who operated on him in Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1950.

ON September 2 (Baltimore time), the President's physician said that the result of the check-ups made on the President showed that he was not suffering from any serious sickness. Dr. Colston, however, ordered that the President be confined for complete and absolute rest at the hospital where he was still undergoing observation.

On the same day, President Quirino opened office on the second floor of the Sheraton-Belvedere hotel and summoned Minister Emilio Abello from New York to take charge of the office. The President wanted constant consultation with the Philippine delegates to the Japanese peace treaty conference. He was also in constant consultation with PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo on PHILCUSA matters.

ON September 3, Johns Hopkins physicians said that President Quirino must be confined in the hospital for not less than two weeks for a quantitative evaluation of the condition of his heart, kidney, and arteries.

DESPITE doctors' strict orders for complete rest, the President on September 4 worked on important state papers and busied himself with a series of telephone conversations with the Philippine delegation to the peace treaty conference in San Francisco. He closeted himself with Minister Emilio Abello and Assistant Private Secretary Juanito C. Gella in his Johns Hopkins hospital room and pored over important state papers. He created a committee composed of OEC Administrator Salvador Araneta, Finance Secretary Pio Pedrosa, and Auditor General Manuel Agregado to study an offer of the Philippine Sugar Institute to purchase the government's Insular Sugar Refining Company and to make recommendations on the same. The President also authorized the release of P1,984,400 to the Manila Railroad Company for the purchase of ten locomotives from Japan.

THE President kept himself posted on the progress of the Japanese peace treaty conference at San Francisco spending the whole day, September 6, on the television set in his room at the Johns Hopkins hospital. He was in constant consultation with Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, head of the Philippine delegation to the peace treaty confab. Ministers Emilio Abello and Manuel Escudero kept the President company during the whole day.

GOVERNOR Theodore McKeldin of Maryland called on President Quirino early in the evening of September 7 at the Johns Hopkins hospital. The President also conferred with RFC Chairman Placido L. Mapa prior to the latter's projected visit to Mexico and Central America on an official mission.

BENEFICIARIES of deceased officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who received the P3,000 gratuity under Republic Act No. 610 are not entitled to similar benefits under Republic Act No. 30 or any other law granting similar benefits, Malacañan ruled on September 8, citing section 9 of Republic Act No. 610.

THE President from 1 to 2 p.m. on September 8 witnessed on the television set in his hospital room the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan. He did not make any comment on the peace treaty signing, as he was reserving his statement until his next monthly radio chat to be broadcast from Baltimore on September 15. The President's health appeared greatly improved as a result of the complete rest he was having.

ON September 10, Malacañan ruled that municipal councils possess the power to prohibit the display of placards and advertisements on the tops of all traffic stands within its jurisdiction, in accordance with the mandate of the first clause of section 2243 (A) of the Revised Administrative Code, prohibiting the display of commercial signs on public lands, premises, or buildings. This ruling was issued by Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to

sustain the appeal of the municipal council of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, whose resolution prohibiting the display of placards and advertisements on top of all traffic stands in that municipality was disapproved by the Ilocos Sur provincial board.

THE President conferred on September 10 with Philippine officials who were to attend the Washington international monetary conference the next day. Those who conferred with the President were Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Minister Emilio Abello, and Dr. Andres Castillo of the Central Bank. The President expressed deep concern for the future of the Philippine abaca industry in the international market in the face of serious threat by Central America, as reported to him by RFC Chairman Placido L. Mapa after a series of conferences with several top United States Department of Agriculture officials. The President asked Mr. Mapa to investigate how serious to Philippine abaca is the abaca growing in Central America.

ON September 13, President Quirino conferred with President Truman at the White House to take up the following matters:

- (1) Priority authorization for procurement of materials needed for the Maria Cristina power and fertilizer plants;
- (2) Further military assistance to the Philippines;
- (3) Balance of war damage payments amounting to \$100 million; and
- (4) Non-reduction of ECA appropriation for the next fiscal year so as not to affect the prosecution of Philippine development program.

The Philippine Chief Executive was accompanied to the White House by Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde and Lt. Col. Jose Cardenas, senior presidential aide. The meeting at the White House was described as "very cordial and friendly."

As President Quirino left the White House, he was confronted by a battery of television, newsreel, and press photographers. The President told the newsmen he hoped the series of defense agreements signed during the last few days will form the nucleus for a security framework in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

AT 3:30 p.m. on the same day, the President presented former Senator Millard Tydings of Maryland with an enlarged copy of the Republic Act adopting Senators Tydings and John McDuffie as sons of the Philippines and conferring upon them Philippine citizenship. In his brief remarks during the simple but impressive ceremony held at the Philippine embassy, the President said that the Filipino people are proud not only of their independence but also of the authors of the law granting it, referring to Senators Tydings and McDuffie.

PRESIDENT Quirino left Johns Hopkins hospital at 4 p.m. on September 14 and left by train for New York. He stayed at the Waldorf Astoria hotel until Monday night, September 17.

IN his 35th monthly radio chat broadcast on September 15 from his room in the Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, the President told the Philippines that "a favorable atmosphere for our steady economic advance and political stability pervades the country" now as a result of the Bell Mission's recommendations and the economic aid flowing to the Islands through the Economic Cooperation Administration program.

"We have made preparations not only for our international security but for our national defense," the President said. "To this end we have entered into a military bases agreement and a military assistance pact with the United States. In order to strengthen our economic structure, an indispensable requirement for our people's peace and contentment, we also made arrangement for mutually beneficial economic relations with the United States." [*See full text of the speech on pages 4556-59, HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS.*]

THE President spent a busy day on September 17 holding several conferences. He postponed for a later date his departure from New York. In the morning, he held, a long conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo over matters affecting the Department of Foreign Affairs. In the afternoon he conferred again with Secretary Romulo over the recent international developments, particularly the Korean cease fire situation and the North Atlantic treaty council meeting in Ottawa. The President also conferred with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo, and Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde regarding their respective missions in Washington.

GENERAL Douglas MacArthur called on President Quirino at his Waldorf Astoria suite on September 18. Present at the meeting which lasted one hour were Foreign Secretary Romulo, Ambassador Elizalde, and General Courtney Whitney. This was the first meeting between General MacArthur and President Quirino since the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1946.

The President told the press afterward that General MacArthur is still the field marshal of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and that the latest tribute to him by the Philippines was the naming of the new bridge that replaced the old Sta. Cruz bridge, MacArthur bridge. He also announced during the press interview that he had accepted the invitation of Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco to be official guest of the Spanish Government in Madrid. In view of this acceptance, the President changed his plans about his return to the Philippines. He said he was to leave New York aboard the *S.S. Constitution* on September 25 for Spain where he expected to remain four or five days.

THE Cabinet on September 21 took steps to strengthen the elementary educational system of the Philippines. On recommendation of Undersecretary Cecilio Putong, the Cabinet gave its approval to superintendents of schools to institute the three-teacher-two-class plan or even the five-teacher-three-class plan in the intermediate grades and the double session (old) plan in the primary grades wherever and whenever possible. This step was approved as a remedial measure to offset as much as possible the detrimental effects of the present two-single-session plan in the primary grades, and the one-teacher-one-class plan in the intermediate grades.

THE President on September 21 sent a congratulatory message to Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay for the release of Quezon Governor Gregorio Santayana who had been kidnapped near San Pablo City. On the same day the President received leaders of the Filipino community in New York to pledge their support to the Government's program of economic development, social amelioration, and the prosecution of peace and order.

THE President motored to White Plains to rest at the consulate house after luncheon, Sunday, September 23, with Francis Cardinal Spellman at the latter's residence behind the cathedral. In the afternoon, the President met Filipino students at White Plains.

THE President issued in New York on September 24 four proclamations each calling for a special election to fill vacancies in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. Proclamation No. 275 calls for a special election to fill the vacancy left by Vice-President Fernando Lopez upon his election to his present position. Proclamations Nos. 276, 277 and 278 call for elections to fill one new congressional seat for the newly created Province of Mindoro Occidental and two vacant seats formerly held by the late Congressman Emilio de la Paz and Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay. The special poll for all the four seats will be held coincidentally with the general elections on November 13.

SHORTLY after boarding the *S.S. Constitution* at 11:30 a.m., on September 25, the President issued the following statement regarding his visit to Spain: "Our foreign policy seeks the enhancement of our relations with other peoples of goodwill. It is in that spirit that I have accepted the invitation of the Spanish government. The Spanish people are deserving of our friendship in return for the abundantly demonstrated goodwill to us." [See page 4560 for full text of the statement.]

THE President on the second day of his trip aboard the *S.S. Constitution*, on September 27, said that he favored Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay's plan to increase the number of batallion combat teams in order to cope more adequately with the peace and order problem. The President spent the day poring over state papers sent to him in New York by Malacañan.

In deference to President Quirino and upon the request of the Spanish government, the *S.S. Constitution* was going out of its regular route and was proceeding directly to the port of Cadiz instead of to Gibraltar, its regular stop. This change in the route would enable the President to land immediately on Spanish soil. Originally, the President was scheduled to stop at Gibraltar, a British fortress, and from there he was expected to enplane for Madrid.

PRESIDENT Quirino ordered the release of P1,984,400 for the purchase of ten locomotives from Japan to rehabilitate the Manila Railroad Company, it was announced by Malacañan on September 29. The authority for the purchase of ten locomotives had been given previously by the President but difficulty was encountered later in the release of the funds. The sum of P1,984,400 will be taken from the unallocated balance of P15 million out of the P200 million advanced to the National Government by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

IN a cable sent from the *S.S. Constitution* on September 30, the President gave his approval for tile implementation of the relaxation of the teaching ban, after former Executive and Education Secretary Teodoro Evangelista had sent a cabled request through Secretary Marciano Roque to the President the previous day appealing earnestly for the immediate relaxation of the teaching ban. In its meeting on September 28, the Cabinet, though sympathetic, failed to act on Evangelista's request to implement the relaxation of the teaching ban, and decided to wait for the President's return.

With this approval, government employees may now teach outside their office hours, from 10 to 12 hours a week, without each case to be decided individually by the Cabinet as previously approved. However, the approval of the Department head and of the Civil Service should first be secured in accordance with standing regulations affecting even those who teach six hours a week.

ON September 30, on the eve of President Quirino's debarkation from the *S.S. Constitution* when it touched Cadiz, a group of American Fullbright scholars bound for Italy for advance studies in voice culture rendered musical numbers in the President's honor. They sang arias from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and *La Tosca*, from Bizet's *Carmen*, and from Verdi's *La Traviata*. At noon of that day a large picture of the President flanked by American and Filipino flags was displayed during a luncheon given in his honor. Wealthy passengers took turns honoring the President with cocktail parties, but the President confined himself to orange juice.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: October, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President on October 1 designated Lt. Col. Angel Magallanes as acting chief of police of Cebu City upon recommendation of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay. In a telegram sent to Malacañan, the President approved the resumption of the redemption of the guerrilla and emergency notes, it was announced by Acting Assistant Executive Secretary Roque on the same day.

PRESIDENT Quirino was accorded a royal reception befitting a head of state upon arrival at Sevilla, Spain, on the afternoon of October 2. Over 100,000 people awaited to give the President a roaring welcome unsurpassed anywhere in color, enthusiasm, and dignity. The President was met by a delegation of Spanish officials headed by Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo and Ambassador Antonio Gullon Gomez of the Spanish embassy in Manila,

On October 2, the Cabinet laid down the policy that the Philippine government shall not admit into the Philippines for permanent residence aliens whose countries do not grant the same privilege to Filipino citizens. This policy was prompted by a memorandum from Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Felino Neri who invited attention to the fact that the Canadian government does not admit Filipino citizens for permanent residence in Canada.

PRESIDENT Quirino arrived in Madrid at 12:30 a. m. on October 3. Generalissimo Francisco Franco led Spain's highest officialdom in welcoming the President at the airport. Braving heavy rains, a mammoth crowd turned out in the airport to greet the Philippine Chief Executive. All the principal newspapers of Spain bannered President Quirino's arrival with big pictures of the popular receptions accorded him on his arrival in Cadiz, Jerez de la Frontera, Sevilla, and Madrid.

ON October 4, the President visited *Del Prado* museum and Spain's Institute of Science, accompanied by Minister of Education Joaquin Ruiz Jimenez and Minister of Industry Joaquin Planall Riera. At noon, the President was honored with a luncheon at the *Ayuntamiento* given by the Mayor of Madrid who presented him as a gift a book containing historical pictures of old Madrid.

Accompanied by Generalissimo Franco and Minister for War Lt. Gen. Agustin Muhoz Grandes, President Quirino left the *Ayuntamiento* at 4 p.m. and proceeded to Toledo where a mammoth crowd greeted them with cheers and applause. The President visited the Alcazar cathedral and the military academy. He returned to Madrid at 8 p.m. to attend a formal dinner given by Generalissimo Franco in his honor at the *El Par do* palace.

THE President left Madrid at noon of October 5 to visit El Escorial monastery, about 25 miles northwest of Madrid. He arrived at the monastery at 1 p.m. and, after half an hour's visit to the monastery, he retired at the Hotel Felipe II. Later in the afternoon, he attended cocktails given in his honor by the Conde de Gamazo, president-manager of the *Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas*, at Galapagar near the El Escorial.

Moving to counteract the reported increase in rice prices, President Quirino signed in Madrid on October 5 Executive Order No. 475, fixing the ceiling prices of imported and native rice in accordance with the recommendation of the Rice Emergency Board.

THE President returned to Madrid from El Escorial on the evening of October 6 to attend the cocktail party given in his honor by Ambassador Moran at the Palace hotel. Two thousand guests were present, including former Manilans residing in Madrid, members of the Philippine community in that city, and prominent diplomatic officials. That evening, two important treaties were signed between the Philippines and Spain, the air transport service agreement and a postal convention. The two agreements were facilitated by the presence of President Quirino in Madrid.

PRESIDENT Quirino gave a dinner at the Ritz hotel in honor of Generalissimo Franco on the evening of October 7. After the dinner, the President gave a citation to the Generalissimo. At noon the next day, the President took off

from the Barajas airfield for Rome. (*See the President's speech before conferring the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Legion of Honor on Generalissimo Franco, p. 5060, HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS.*)

THE President authorized Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay to call 5,000 reservists in Luzon to annual active duty, Malacañan announced on October 8. This activation of reservists is authorized by the provisions of the National Defense Act.

The President arrived in Rome at 4: 30 p.m. on October 8 for a two-day visit as guest of the Italian government. A big delegation led by Italian President and Mrs. Luigi Einaudi, Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi, and other cabinet members and high ranking Italian officials met him at the Clampino airport. President Quirino rode in an open car with the Italian President to the Quirinal palace where he will stay for the night as official guest of Italy.

AT 8 a.m. on the next day, October 9, President Quirino laid a wreath on Rome's unknown soldier at the tomb of King Emmanuel II at Piazza Venezia. Accompanied by Italy's Defense Minister Randolpho Pacciardi, the President left the Quirinal palace for Piazza Venezia for the impressive ceremonies attended by Italy's top army and navy brass.

In the afternoon, the President together with Ambassador and Mrs. Manuel V. Moran and all the members of the Presidential party had an audience with Pope Pius XII at Castle Gandolfo. It was reported that the President proposed to the Pope the appointment of a Filipino cardinal. Rome gave a reception in honor of President Quirino at Palazzo Dei Conservatori.

THE Department of Labor estimated that about 300,000 people from all walks of life cheered the President as he stepped off the plane at the Manila International Airport upon his, arrival from abroad on October 11. Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, executive chairman of the reception committee, was the first to greet the President. He escorted him to the grandstand where he extended to the returning Chief of State the welcome of the populace. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 5061-54, for the welcome speech and the President's speech.*)

DURING the cabinet meeting held on October 12, the President issued an executive order authorizing payment from funds raised by the Peace Fund Commission of cash rewards to civilians for the surrender, capture, or killing of dissident leaders or for other assistance rendered directly in connection with the current peace and order drive, in accordance with the recommendation of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay. The President also directed Secretary of Public Works Sotero Baluyut, Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, and Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez to coordinate their activities and rush the slum clearance in Manila and Baguio.

The Cabinet took steps during that cabinet meeting on October 12 to rush housing projects in Manila and Baguio for the purpose of making available houses for workers and low-income employees. The Cabinet authorized the trip of General Manager Vicente Fragante of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation to Japan, and if possible to Spain to study the housing projects in these places for the purposes of adopting them in the Philippines. The cabinet action followed a long report by President Quirino on his observations of the housing projects in the United States and in Spain.

ON October 13, the President signed Proclamation No. 279 declaring the period from October 22 to 28, 1951, as Philippine National Science Week, and creating a committee to take charge of the observance of the occasion. The President also signed Proclamation No. 280 amending the composition of the National Committee on Fish Conservation Day.

The President enplaned for Vigan at 8 a. m. that day to register there as a voter. Before enplaning for Vigan, the President conferred with Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo reportedly on the 15-man Presidential Committee on Japanese reparations.

ADDRESSING a mammoth crowd gathered to welcome him before the provincial capital on October 15, the President enjoined the people of Ilocos Sur to support and cooperate with the government in its determination to rid the country of subversive elements. The President said, "At this time of confusion and tension, we should unite and help one another not only for our own good but also for those of our children."

IN a conference with Secretary Magsaysay shortly before noon on October 15, the President reiterated confidence in his Secretary of National Defense giving him full authority to dispatch government forces to any part of the country where he thinks the peace and security of the people is seriously threatened. The conference was held at the fish farm of Ex-Governor Singson Reyes in Mindoro, Vigan, near the seashore where the President had retired since noon the previous day. Secretary Magsaysay was also authorized to accede to the request of the Electoral Commission to deputize ROTC cadets as poll watchers.

In his 36th monthly radio chat broadcast from Vigan, the President stressed the importance of his last trip abroad which "afforded us a fresh demonstration of our growing national stature as a factor for good will, understanding, and peace." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pages 5064-68, for full text of the radio chat.)

THE President had authorized the release of ₱2,333,896 to hasten the survey and disposition of public lands in line with the administration's program of providing land for the landless, it was announced by Malacañan on October 16. The amount released will be covered partly from the appropriation of ₱10 million authorized by the appropriations act and from the estimated income of 1 million from public lands application fees. Another step taken by the Government in implementing its land for the landless program is the authorized sale to squatters within the NAFCO area in Mindanao of five hectares each, it was also announced by Malacañan the next day.

THE President on October 17 visited the site of the proposed Abra River Control project at Banaoang, the Ilocos Textile Mills of the NDC at Narvacan, the Agricultural High School in Sta. Maria', and the irrigation canal in Sta. Lucia. Accompanied by District Engineer Segundo Gloria, the President toured several southern Ilocos Sur towns and inspected public works projects.

BEFORE enplaning from Vigan at 4:10 p.m. on October 18 on his return trip to Manila, the President declared he had no intention of lifting the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in troubled areas before the elections. He called attention to the fact that only politicians, out of their desire to make an election issue of the writ suspension, are petitioning for its restoration. The President arrived in Manila at 5:30 p.m.

THE President issued on October 19 a proclamation declaring October 20 a special legal holiday in Leyte in commemoration of the 7th anniversary of General Douglas MacArthur's landing in Leyte Gulf bringing with him the American forces 'of liberation.

THE President issued two administrative orders on October 20 reprimanding Governor Alfredo M. Abueg of Palawan for unreasonable extravagance in the expenditure of public funds and exonerating Governor Mateo S. Pecson of Masbate for charges of abuse of authority, abuse of government funds and property, and threats and intimidations. The President's action was in accordance with the recommendation of the Integrity Board which handled the investigation of the two provincial officials.

THE President approved on October 22 the release of ₱1,630,000 to pay the salaries of teachers for additional elementary classes. This sum is chargeable against the lump sum appropriation of ₱130,644,400 as authorized in Republic Act No. 673. Out of the sum authorized to be released, ₱630,000 will cover the salaries of teachers of the 750 additional classes for children who could not be accommodated in schools during the preceding school year. The balance of ₱1 million will be used to pay the salaries of substitute teachers.

AT the cabinet meeting on October 23, the President ordered effective immediately that the practice of hazing in the academies of the Philippine Army be stopped. The President's directive to the National Defense Secretary came as a result of recent reports of hazing in the air school at Fernando Air-base in Lipa, notwithstanding the fact that only a few months ago three cadets of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio were dismissed as a result of hazing.

Upon being informed that Ambassador Cowen had resigned as U. S. envoy to the Philippines to take up new duties in the State Department at Washington, President Quirino issued a statement extolling the great help of the American Ambassador to us in the Philippines in strengthening the friendly ties between the Filipino people and the American people. "Ambassador Cowen has represented the United States in the Philippines in a creditable manner both to the United States and to our country," the President said.

THE President on October 24 approved the extension of the registration of voters in four municipalities in Surigao, Laguna, and Mountain Province owing to the impossibility of registering voters during some of the regular days set aside for registration.

ON October 26, the President signed Executive Order No. 479, fixing the ceiling prices of foodstuffs, school supplies, and construction materials; Executive Order No. 478 providing for the collection of tax on annual sugar production levied by Republic Act No. 632; and Executive Orders Nos. 480 and 481, terminating the collection of tolls in two bridges in Cavite. The President also signed Proclamation No. 282, designating the Director of Science and Technology as an additional member of the Committee to take charge of the observance of the Philippine National Science Week from October 22 to 28, 1951.

THE President had a breakfast conference on October 25 with General J. Lawton Collins, visiting Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army. Attended by top-ranking Philippine officials and U. S. diplomatic and military representatives in Manila, the Palace conference dwelt on military defense of the Philippines, particularly in relation to the overall strategy for security in this part of the world.

In his UN Day address before the Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel on October 25, the President said that "the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia today is the problem of security." According to him, "Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half of the world, and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to Communism by default."

THE President ordered on October 26 the early completion of the Government's various low-cost housing projects designed to provide more comfortable homes for low-income employees and laborers of government and private offices, in line with the social amelioration program of the administration. The Quirino housing project in Camias district, Quezon City, involves the construction of 5,000 homes over an area of 240 hectares. The project will cost approximately ₱18 million part of which will come from the assistance program of the ECA. Other housing projects of the Government are located in Tondo and slum places outside Manila.

ON October 27, the President designated the period from November 16, 1951 to January 31, 1952 for the third annual fund campaign of the Community Chest of Greater Manila in Proclamation No. 283 issued that day.

ON October 29, the President in the course of his inspection of the progress made by the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation in constructing homes for low-salaried employees, ordered the immediate release of ₱100,000 from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes fund, the initial amount needed for the construction of a two-story hospital to serve particularly the small-salaried employees living in the people's homesite in Quezon City. The President also motored to the hospital site and to Bago Bantay to inspect the squatters who had been moved to that place.

THE President in Administrative Order No. 168 issued on October 30 on the case of Mayor Vicente Y. Ostia of Ozamis City who had been charged with alleged abuse of authority, graft, and nepotism, declared that the Administration does not look with favor upon the practice of government officials in appointing relatives whether or not their relationship is beyond the third degree of either consanguinity or affinity. Mayor Ostia was exonerated upon the recommendation by a special investigator from the Office of the President who had been assigned to investigate the case, for lack of evidence to substantiate the charges against him.

The Cabinet decided on October 30 to reduce air mail rates both for domestic and foreign mail. On the recommendation of Public Works Secretary Sotero Baluyut, the Cabinet reduced the postal airmail to foreign countries from ₱1.20 to ₱0.90 a gram, and from ₱0.50 to ₱0.30 a gram for domestic airmail.

IN a brief extemporaneous speech on October 31 before about 2,000 Liberal Party *vocales*, presidents, and leaders in Manila at a mammoth luncheon at the fiesta pavilion of the Manila Hotel, the President enjoined everyone to go to the polls on election day and “vote freely, honestly, and clearly.” He expressed his determination to carry out his obsession to see a free, clean, and peaceful elections on November 13 no matter what it costs or who gets hurt. In a telegram to Hilario Arenas, Nacionalista candidate for mayor of Boljo-on under the Osmeña faction, the President gave assurance that he was exerting his utmost to insure clean elections to uphold the sanctity of the popular will.

The President signed on October 31 a proclamation reserving an area of 5,752 hectares in Saug, Davao, for the use of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The land granted to the Boy Scouts was the initial grant from the Government to help the organization in its work.

Speaking on the occasion of the 28th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines on October 31, the President declared that he shared “the joy of all members and all our people for an organization that helps us to be true Filipinos, true citizens of the world, and true members of the brotherhood of man.” (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 5072-73, for full text of the speech.*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: November, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

ACTING swiftly to expedite the granting of relief to victims of operations against dissidents, the President issued on November 1 an administrative order prescribing regulations for the speedy release of such aid, payable from the appropriations provided for the Social Welfare Administration under Republic Act No. 563, as amended by: Republic Act No. 575 and Executive Order No. 392.

JUST before enplaning for Baguio on November 2, the President approved the holding of one new registration day on November 6, 1951, of qualified voters in 17 precincts in six municipal districts of Lanao. The registration of voters in the said precincts on September 28 and 29 was annulled by the Commission on Elections owing to illegal procedures. The President also ordered the discharge of Second Lieutenant Conrado Veneracion from the military service and his dropping from the roll of the reserve officers for having been found guilty on two counts in his participation in the hazing of two cadets in the PAF flying school. Another important act of the President before leaving for Baguio was to authorize the PAL to give free round-trip tickets to the United States for both Elvira Difuntorum and her mother to save the baby's life which was endangered by the pins she swallowed. The President directed Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez to send mother and child to America at the President's expense. Early in the evening of the same day, the President had a conference with top ECA men at the Guest House in Baguio regarding international problems and ECA aid to Far Eastern countries, particularly the Philippines.

ON November 3, the President visited Agoo, La Union, the birthplace of his mother where he had spent his boyhood. The primary object of his visit was to see the new two-story maternity hospital to be named after his mother, Doña Gregoria. The whole town, led by three bands, turned out for a glimpse of the town boy who became President. President Quirino returned to Baguio at 5:30 in the evening after a whirlwind tour of the first district of La Union.

MALACANAN announced on the same day the President's approval of the holding of a new registration of voters on November 8 in 21 additional precincts in Lanao, after the Commission on Elections had annulled the registration of voters made on September 28 and 29, 1951, in the municipal districts of Tamparan and Taraka.

BEFORE returning to Manila on November 5, the President received the cadets of the Baguio Colleges. The President arrived in Manila in time to speak at the rally held at 4 p.m. on November 5 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, sponsored by the Lions Club, the Jaycees, the NAMFREL, and the League of Women Voters. Speaking before 30,000 people who packed the football stadium, the President enumerated the different steps taken by the Government to insure free and honest elections. He appealed to reason "so that God may guide us in fulfilling our civic duty on November 13 to the credit of our people and our race." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 5571, for full text of the speech.)

THE President signed a proclamation on November 6, designating the period from January 15 to February 14, 1952, for the national fund campaign of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in places outside of Greater Manila. In another proclamation signed on the same day, the President placed the municipal golf links in Intramuros under the administration of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation. Also on the same day, the President authorized the holding of a new registration of voters on November 8 in precinct No. 3 in Iriga, Camarines Sur, in view of the failure of the said precinct to hold registration of voters on October 13.

ON November 7, the President signed Proclamation No. 289 declaring the period from December 16 to 22, 1951, as Aviation Week. On the same day, the President directed Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay to advertise immediately for bids for the construction of the P18,800,000 hospital for Filipino veterans. The directive was given during the impressive ceremonies on the occasion of the signing and formal turnover by Brigadier General Ralph B. Lovett, United States Veterans Administration manager, of the revised plans for the veterans hospitals expected to be completed in two years.

The President paid high tribute to the work being done by the UNICEF in the Philippines on the occasion of the call at Malacañan on November 7 of a large group of UNICEF officials and employees headed by James McCall, chief of the UNICEF mission in the Philippines.

EARLY in the afternoon of November 8, the President repaired to the Presidential yacht *Apo* lying at anchor in Manila Bay so that he could concentrate on the study of important state papers. The President issued an executive order designating AFP general headquarters in charge of processing all claims for death gratuity and disability pensions

MALACAÑAN announced on November 9 that the President had approved a new registration of voters for precinct No. 20 in the municipality of General Trias, Cavite, on November 10 and 11, 1951, to prevent disenfranchisement of qualified voters in the said precinct. It was also announced by Malacañan that the President had relieved Mayor Horacio Rodriguez of Cavite City and had designated City Treasurer Bernardino C. Mendoza as acting city mayor.

THE President issued a proclamation on November 10, extending up to December 15, 1951, the period fixed for the special nation-wide campaign for voluntary contributions for the benefit of children. The fund campaign started on October 16 and was originally scheduled to end on November 15. The President also designated Miguel Yuvencio as acting vice mayor of Tagaytay in addition to his duties as acting city treasurer. Carlos Batino was appointed councilor of Tagaytay in place of Sulpicio Olimpio.

BY direction of the President, the Armed Forces of the Philippines on November 11 awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) upon Myron M. Cowen "for outstanding and distinguished service to the Filipino people as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines."

IN a fighting speech on the eve of the election, the President directly charged the leaders of the Opposition with having "abetted, staunchly protected and defended in court" the top brass of the Politburo of the Communist Party of the Philippines who are now in the toils of the law. The speech was broadcast by all radio stations over a nation-wide hookup at 7 p.m. on November 12. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 5585, for full text of the speech.)

On the same day, the President placed the police forces of the City of Cebu and the town of Navotas, Rizal, under the Constabulary on the recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense. At 2:30 p.m. the President motored to the airport to board the *Laong Laan* for Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to cast his vote. Before leaving for Vigan, the President sent a telegram to the widow of the late Governor Praxedes Villanueva of Negros Oriental to express his condolence in response to a telegram received at Malacañan from Dumaguete reporting the death of the provincial governor.

THE President enplaned for Baguio at 10 a.m. on November 13, after casting his vote at Vigan precinct No. 20. Malacañan announced on the same day that the President had designated Philippine Ambassador to Washington Joaquin M. Elizalde as acting secretary of foreign affairs during the absence from the Philippines of Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo who was currently attending the United Nations General Assembly in Paris as head of the Philippine delegation.

Effective at 6 o'clock in the evening of election day, November 13, the President ordered the suspension of Governor Perfecto Fayon as chief executive of Ilocos Sur. Santiago Dizon, Division Superintendent of Schools, was designated as acting governor pending Governor Fayon's investigation by the Integrity Board for numerous serious charges involving money shortages, property accountability, blackmarketing of cigarette rations, abuse of position, extortion and falsification, and dishonesty and misconduct in office.

THE President unveiled on the morning of November 16, his 61st birthday, the historical marker at the Mansion House which was constructed in 1908 as the summer residence of the Governor General and later of the President of the Philippines. Then he motored to the Philippine Military Academy at Loakan where he reviewed a military parade given in his honor on the occasion of his birthday. The President received thousands of telegrams from all over the country congratulating him on his birthday and also for the clean and orderly elections he had given the people.

In the evening, the President broadcast his 37th monthly radio chat from his study at the Guest House. In his radio chat the President said: "As I reach on this day a new milestone in my life, our country also reaches a new milestone in its electoral history in the practice of democracy The election which provided our people another opportunity to express freely and honestly their will shows that democracy really works on our soil." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 5588, for full text of the radio chat.)

ON November 17 the President gave the go-signal to Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda to invite the nations of the world to participate in a world fair and exposition to be held in Manila in 1953.

THE Guest House released on November 18 the names of 28 prisoners pardoned by the President on his 61st birthday. The President granted clemency to these prisoners after a thorough study of each case, following the recommendation of the Board of Pardons. On the same day, the President inspected the progress of the work on the P2 million Pines Hotel being constructed at the former site of the University mess in Baguio.

THE President announced at a press conference on November 19 that he would act with determination and firmness on the Negros Occidental situation after having secured full knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Moises Padilla. He also announced that he had ordered the investigation of the alleged manhandling of a newspaperman, Manuel Lagunsad, by bodyguards of Mayor-elect Arsenio H. Lacson.

ON November 20 the President had a breakfast conference with Chairman Domingo Imperial of the Commission on Elections who flew over to Baguio to render a comprehensive report on the results of the last elections. At the press conference in the evening of that day, the President said that the Government had taken immediate action by sending all the needed men to Negros Occidental to control the situation there. He intimated during his press conference that Joaquin Elizalde would cease as Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary as soon as Carlos P. Romulo returns to Manila.

THE President received on the morning of November 21 a large delegation of congressmen headed by Speaker Perez who flew over to Baguio aboard a chartered PAL plane to take up with the President the program of legislation for the coming regular session of Congress.

Through the recommendation of Major General Calixto Duque, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the President approved on the same day the integration into the regular force of the AFP of 15 reserve officers of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea.

THE Malacañan Press Office in Baguio announced on November 22 that President Quirino had suspended Governor Rafael Lacson of Negros Occidental before midnight the previous day. Leon C. Miraflores, provincial treasurer of Negros Occidental, was designated as acting governor of the province.

MEMBERS of the Cabinet on November 23 offered to vacate their respective positions in order to give the President complete freedom to reorganize his Cabinet. This action was made formally through a letter addressed to the President and signed by all the members of the Cabinet. The President arrived in Manila from Baguio at 12 o'clock noon of that day, accompanied by Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay.

MALACAÑAN announced on November 24 that the Integrity Board will conduct the administrative investigation of Governor Rafael Lacson in connection with the maltreatment and subsequent death of Moises Padilla and the terrorism in Negros Occidental. The Integrity Board will conduct the probe, according to the announcement.

IN the course of a brief extemporaneous speech delivered at the opening on November 24 of the Sharp and Dohme laboratory in Manila, the President lauded the spirit behind the establishment of the first American ethical pharmaceutical manufacturing laboratory in the Philippines. This firm, the President pointed out, will not only provide employment to Filipinos and help the Philippines become self-sufficient in its pharmaceutical needs but will also give revenues to the Government. (See *Historical papers and documents*, p. 5591, for full text of the speech.)

ON November 26, the President received visiting executives of the Colgate-Palmolive Peet Company who arrived in Manila recently in connection with the inauguration of the company's big plant in San Pedro Makati on November 29. The American executives congratulated the President for his efforts in fostering and encouraging the establishments of factories in the Philippines with outside capital.

Visiting the new four-million peso Republic Super Market as the main guest of honor at its inauguration on November 26, the President expressed gratification at seeing quite a number of products on display at the Republic Exposition of 1951. "This should be a tourist attraction—this is the Philippines!" he remarked.

In the evening of the same day, the President was given a testimonial dinner by the Jaycees at the Manila Hotel in appreciation of the fulfillment of his pledge to give the country a clean and orderly election. Speaking about the last election, the President expressed regret that the public appreciation of the accomplishment of his pledge for a clean election was not as enthusiastic and liberal as the demand for a pledge from public officials to insure the safety and purity of the polls.

THE Council of State met for two hours on November 27 and approved a six-point program of the administration for the ensuing year. The Council approved the acceleration of the Government housing projects, the speeding up and completion of hydroelectric, and power projects, the fostering of industrial and agricultural development and scientific researches, the revision of the Tenancy Law, the expropriation of landed estates and their distribution to the landless, and the implementation of the law transferring the capital of the Philippines to Quezon City.

The President on the same day, ordered that all possible government assistance be extended to some 10,000 families in the Visayas rendered homeless by the typhoon Wanda.

ON November 28, the President issued Proclamation No. 293 setting aside December 10, 1951 as "Human Rights Day" to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. Malacañan announced on the same day the approval of the holding of a carnival and exposition in the City of Baguio for a period of two weeks to include the holy week of 1952.

THE next day, November 29, the President issued Proclamation No. 294 declaring the period from November 29 to December 5, 1951, as Land Transportation Week "in the interest of national progress and prosperity." In the morning, the President personally presented decorations and awards to members of the 10th Battalion Combat Team who had distinguished themselves in Korea, in a two-hour ceremony held at the Rizal Memorial football stadium. Addressing the 10th BCT veterans, the President declared: "Our people and the whole world will long remember with gratitude your noble adventure and the success of your mission in Korea. . . . We who are left behind have also achieved a new record in our political history. You fought for freedom and democracy outside; we fought for the same ideals at home. What you have accomplished utilizing the bullets, we have accomplished utilizing the ballot." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 5592, for full text of the speech.)

IN the afternoon of November 29, the President spoke before the convention of the National Land Transportation Operators Association (NALATROA) at the Manila Hotel and appealed for the improvement of the land transportation facilities in the Philippines without resorting to cut-throat competition. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 5592-B, for full text of the speech.)

ON National Heroes Day, November 30, the President led the nation in paying tribute to the national heroes by sending wreaths to the Rizal monument at the Luneta, the Bonifacio monument at Balintawak, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the mausoleum of the Veterans of the Revolution, the national shrines at Capas and Bataan, Fort Santiago, the American and Filipino soldiers' cemetery at Fort McKinley, and the mausoleums of the late President Manuel L. Quezon and the late President Manuel Roxas.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: December, 1951

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

ON the first day of December, the President received a large group of senators, representatives, provincial governors, and municipal mayors who called at Malacañan to consult him on problems concerning their respective jurisdiction. In the afternoon, the President gave a tea party in honor of the delegates to the Far Eastern Council of Christian Churches who had been holding their convention in Manila since November 24.

The President expressed great satisfaction upon learning that one of the 12 countries represented in the convention was Japan. In a spirit of Christian charity, he said that following the example of the Lord, we cannot afford to nurture the feeling of hatred toward our neighbor, the former enemy country, Japan. He appealed to all religious sects to pool together their energies in checking the encroachment of communism in order to make our country safe for liberty and democracy.

THE President gave a luncheon in honor of Vice-President Alben Barkley of the United States and Mrs. Barkley at Malacañan Palace on December 3. About 54 high officials of the Philippine Government, some members of the diplomatic corps, and top brass of the U. S. Army and Navy and the Philippines Armed Forces were present.

Delivering one of the most impressive extemporaneous speeches ever heard at the banquet hall of Malacañan, the American vice president credited President Quirino with having justified freedom in the Philippines by "guaranteeing to the people and providing for them a fair and just election without regard to yourself." Vice-President Barkley, President Quirino said, is entitled to the gratitude of the Filipino people for all "that you have said because in effect you have come to animate our spirit, awaken us, encourage us, to continue the work which we have undertaken, which we hope will always be encouraged and backed up by the United States." (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS*, pp. 6087-6094, *for full texts of the speeches.*)

ON the same day, the President issued Executive Order No. 485, organizing a portion of the municipality of Nabua in Camarines Norte into an independent municipality under the name of Balatan.

THE Cabinet at its meeting on December 4 decided that the Philippine Government reiterate its repeated request for the repeal of the excise tax on coconut oil and make its strong representations in the forthcoming hearings of the United States Senate against the approval of the bill that was recently passed by the House converting the excise tax into customs duty. The Philippine stand on the excise tax will be transmitted to the U. S. Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Embassy in Washington.

During the cabinet meeting, the President took steps to make funds available for the rehabilitation of the Philippine General Hospital in the amount of ₱600,000. He directed Acting Assistant Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to raise the money from the surplus of the Sweepstakes office and from the income of the Government from the Jai-Alai.

The President, upon receipt of a telegram on December 4 informing him of the Hibok-Hibok disaster, immediately instructed Secretary Roque to direct the PNRC the Social Welfare Administration, the Department of Health, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and all other relief organizations to give the needed relief to the stricken area. The President further instructed Secretary Roque to get confirmation of the casualties reported and to follow through the progress of relief work.

ON December 6, the President issued Executive Order No. 170, creating a committee to coordinate and facilitate preparations of all requests from the Philippines for priority assistance on orders for commodities in short supply in the United States. The committee is composed of a representative of the Central Bank as chairman and a representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and a representative of the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid (PHILCUSA) as members. The committee is expected to minimize the difficulties and inconvenience involved in the securing of priorities for equipment, materials, and commodities now in short supply in the United States.

HPHE President authorized on December 7 the release of ₱10,000 to be placed at the disposal of relief workers in the field for local purchase of relief supplies and materials for the hard-pressed victims of the Hibok-Hibok disaster on Camiguin Island. The President immediately ordered the release of the amount upon receipt of a telegram from relief officials who reported on the mounting toll of lives and property as a result of further volcanic explosions on the island. He mobilized his cabinet at its meeting in the evening of that day to extend all-out aid to the victims of the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok. The President on the same night fired Assistant City Fiscal Cornelio Ruperto of Manila who was found guilty of the charge of alleged favoritism, partiality, and distortion of facts before the Manila Court of First Instance and the Supreme Court, upon the recommendation of the Integrity Board that investigated him.

At a *merienda* party given by the President at Malacañan in the evening of December 7 in honor of the delegates to the first Far Eastern Dental Conference, he appealed to the dentists to promote the dental health of the children, especially those of poor families so that they will grow up into healthy and vigorous citizens of the Republic. The President made a comparison between the human body and the body politic, and pointed out that metaphorically he is a “dental surgeon in the government” who pulls out government personnel infected with corruption and maladministration as a result of “political pyorrhea.”

On December 8, the President signed Administrative Order No. 172, creating a National Rizal Day Committee to organize and make all arrangements necessary for the fitting celebration of the 55th anniversary of the martyrdom of the greatest Filipino hero and patriot. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo heads the committee which is composed of Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, Education Undersecretary Cecilio Putong, U. P. President Vidal A. Tan, Mayor Manuel de la Fuente, Antonio de las Alas, Juan Nakpil, Prudencio Langcauon, Mrs. Maria Katigbak, Dr. Herminio Velarde, as members, and Vicente Lontoc as executive secretary of the committee. The President also signed Administrative Order No. 173, authorizing the Philippine American General Insurance Co., Inc. to become a surety upon official recognizances, stipulations, bonds and undertakings as provided by law.

Calling to about 500 top officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from all parts of the country who called on the Chief Executive at Malacañan on December 8 to pledge their loyalty to their Commander-in-Chief, the President categorically declared: “There is no division in our ranks, contrary to reports that tend to divide us when we are so concentrated in our task of clearing our countrysides of the enemies of our freedom and democratic institution.” He told the top officers, “We have a unified Army, strong, aggressive, and just, in whom the people have their trust;” and that the Army will remain unified. The President, however, warned that he will not allow them to utilize their commands to achieve ulterior ends such as for political campaigning. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS*, pp. 6095-6099, *for full text of the speech.*)

In a message received in Manila on December 10. President Harry S. Truman told President Quirino that “the American people have been immeasurably heartened in patching the Filipino people practice the way of democracy.” The U. S. President congratulated President Quirino for his determination and success growth of democracy in keeping the last elections clean and honest. “This in the Philippines is additional indication of the great and honorable traditions of Philippine-American friendships,” Mr. Truman’s cablegram concluded.

The President on December 10 ordered the yacht *Apo* to proceed to Camiguin Island with food, clothing, medicines, and other relief supplies and materials for the eruption sufferers on the stricken island. The vessel was scheduled to leave Manila at 8 a. m. the next day with Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez and relief workers on board. The President at the same time wired Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., who was then in Camiguin, to proceed to Cebu on the first opportunity to direct relief work for victims of typhoon *Amy*.

On December 11, the President appointed 22 members of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines to serve as liaison between the Philippine government and the UNESCO and to associate principal bodies in the Philippines interested in educational, scientific, and cultural matters with the work of that UN organization.

The President also reappointed Generoso Velasquez as member of the board of pharmaceutical examiners for a term of three years, signed the ad interim appointment of Deogracias Pinili as first mayor of Dumaguete City under a new charter, and appointed Mrs. Eustaquia Dionaldo as vice mayor of the same city vice Antonio Oria, deceased.

ADDRESSING the opening plenary session of the Educators' Congress held at Malacañan Park on December 12, the President declared: "It is more than a happy coincidence that this Educators' Congress, as part of the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Educational System, follow closely on the heels of the 1951 election now widely recognized as a signal victory for democracy in our country. In the success of that election we had a good demonstration of the meaning of our school system in the preservation of our democracy . . . The response of our new citizenry in peacefully and freely registering their will at the polls was as much a contribution of public education under a democracy. And the role played by the teachers in maintaining the freedom and purity of the ballot showed the manifest influence of our schools in our democratic way of life." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 6100-6104, *for full text of the speech.*)

UPON the recommendation of the Integrity Board, the President on December 12 issued Administrative Order No. 175, dismissing the charges against Director Pablo Lucas of the Bureau of Printing, because the Board considered them flimsy. Director Lucas' answer which was supported by documentary evidence convinced the Board that there was no need to hold hearing on the case. In dismissing the charges, the President said that he agreed with the findings of the Integrity Board that the charges lacked merit. (See p. 6066, *for full text of the administrative order.*)

The President also signed on the same day, Administrative Order No. 174, authorizing the United Insurance Company, Inc., to become a surety upon official cognizances, stipulations, bonds, and undertakings as prescribed by law. The President also issued an executive order creating an investigating committee on veterans' pension in each municipality and chartered city and enjoining all officers and employees of the Government to render the necessary assistance to applicants. Each committee shall be composed of three competent revolutionary veterans in the locality who shall be appointed by the chairman of the Board on Pensions for Veterans.

In the evening of the same day, the President proclaimed the existence of a public calamity on Camiguin Island and in the provinces affected by typhoon *Amy*. In this proclamation, the President declared in full force and effect the provisions, of Act No. 4164 which prohibits and penalizes the hoarding of palay, rice, corn, building or construction materials, and other prime necessities of life and other foodstuffs. Sale of those prime commodities at excessive prices will also be subject to heavy penalties.

ON December 13, immediately following receipt of a telegram from the Mayor of Cebu City soliciting assistance from the National Government, the President ordered the immediate release of about ₱10,000 worth of much needed building materials for the construction of temporary makeshift homes to house thousands rendered homeless in Cebu City by typhoon *Amy*. On the same day, the President issued Proclamation No. 295 reserving for the use of the United States Army five parcels of public lands situated in barrios Dau and San Joaquin, municipality of Mabalacat, Pampanga.

THE President spent almost two hours on December 14 at the side of Speaker Eugenio Perez, who was under treatment for kidney trouble at the Philippine General Hospital.

Earlier that morning the President honored Dr. John W. Taylor, visiting director general of the UNESCO, with a breakfast at Malacañan Palace.

On the same day, the President signed Proclamations Nos. 297 and 298, reserving certain parcels of land in Davao for radio station site and townsite purposes respectively upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

IN his determination to rid the Government of corrupt and inept officials, the President ordered on December 15 the immediate removal from office of Marcial L. Aguirre, assistant provincial fiscal of Occidental Negros, upon the recommendation of a special investigating committee appointed by the Solicitor General. Aguirre was found guilty of coercion, grave threats, and other charges. (See Administrative Order No. 176 which contains the order of Aguirre's removal, p. 6067.)

THE Council of State, on the same day, adopted measures to rush relief supplies for the sufferers of the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok and the typhoons Wanda and *Amy* which laid waste the entire provinces of the Visayas. The

Council took step to make available approximately ₱1,000,000 which was needed according to estimates made by the Social Welfare Administration and the Red Cross to meet the needs of the disaster victims.

THE President in his 38th monthly radio chat delivered on December 15, appealed to the public, here and abroad, for voluntary contributions and donations to raise the balance of the estimated amount needed for relief of the victims of the disasters that visited the country. "Your contributions," said the President in appealing for contributions, "will be the best possible investment you can have in a season of peace and goodwill. You will strengthen by that much the bond of human sympathy which joins you to your neighbors and community without which we can not exist and endure as a free and united people." (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 6104-6106, *for full text of the radio chat.*)

TOURING the ceremonies held in the evening of December 16 at the Malacañan social hall which climaxed the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Philippine Educational System, the President received a gold medal and a diploma of merit "for rising from barrio teacher to second President of the Republic of the Philippines and for continuing an abiding interest in education." Speaking before leading educators gathered to witness the distribution of awards to 19 educational institutions and 165 individuals who had contributed most to the country's educational progress, the President warned that "our country is in danger of being destroyed from its base because the democratic ideas which we have learned from the very beginning are being threatened to the great danger of our national life."

THE President enplaned to the southern provinces early in the morning of December 17 to visit Hibok-Hibok victims on Camiguin Island and the typhoon sufferers in the Visayas and Mindanao. The President's plane *Laong Laan* circled for some time over Mt. Hibok-Hibok and the devastated area and then landed at 11:45 a.m. at the Patag airstrip in Cagayan de Oro City. After receiving a warm welcome at Cagayan de Oro, the President proceeded to the Presidential yacht *Apo* which took him to Camiguin Island where he surveyed the extent of the eruption devastation and the relief operations.

FROM Camiguin, the President proceeded in the evening of the same day to Iligan, Lanao, to visit the Maria Cristina Falls power and fertilizer projects. He arrived in Iligan in the morning of December 18. From Iligan, he proceeded to Ozamis City where he took off on board the *Laong Laan* in the morning of December 19 to make flying visits to Koronadal and Allah Valley settlement projects in Cotabato, thence to Davao City, thence to Del Monte, Bukidnon.

The President stopped at several settlers' homes to find out whether the Government could be of further assistance to the settlers. In Davao City, he conferred with provincial and municipal officials, warning them against sectional strife which might hamper the development of Mindanao. From Davao, the presidential party proceeded to Del Monte, where they lunched and spent the night. The presidential party returned to Manila on December 20 after a brief visit to the LASEDECO project in Maramag.

IN his extemporaneous speech at Camp Murphy on December 21 on the occasion of the commemoration of the AFP's 15th anniversary, the President enjoined some 5,000 troops representing all services to stand firm in the defense of the humble and the weak and be a terror to the scheming strong who would seek to destroy their organization. The President delivered his speech following the parade and review given in his honor.

Also on the same day, the President signed Proclamation No. 299 withdrawing from sale or settlement and reserving for forest station site purposes a parcel of public domain in Davao City, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The President, moreover, ordered the immediate suspension of three municipal mayors, two chiefs of police, and policeman charged with alleged torture and subsequent murder of Moises Padilla, defeated candidate for Mayor during the last elections in Negros Occidental.

The President's order came following receipt of a copy of the information filed with the Court of First Instance of Bacolod on December 13, naming these three municipal officials including suspended Governor Rafael Lacson and 23 other men for Padilla's alleged torture and murder. Among those suspended by the President were Mayors Jose Gayona, Jr. of Magallon, Claudio Montilla of Isabela, and Manuel Ramos, of Castellana; Police chiefs Ceferino D. Laos of Magallon, and Bias M. Moleno of Villadolid; and some policemen and special policemen.

THE immediate release of ₱150,000 from the sweepstakes funds for aid to the sufferers of the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok and the two recent typhoons that devastated the Visayan islands was ordered by President Quirino following his visit to Camiguin. The amount was handed to Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez on December 22 by Acting Assistant Executive Secretary Marciano Roque.

ON December 24, the President granted the traditional Christmas pardon to 27 prisoners on the recommendation by the Board of Pardons and Parole. At 10:30 in the morning of that day, the President enplaned for Baguio, accompanied by Lt., and Mrs. Tomas Quirino and their son Butch, Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal, and the senior presidential aide and the assistant physician of the President. At 5 p.m. in the evening, the President inaugurated the Pines Hotel, with Mrs. Tomas Quirino, his daughter-in-law, cutting the ribbon to the hotel's main entrance.

THE President on December 27 reiterated his appeal for general support and cooperation in the government program of economic development aimed at raising the people's living standard. In the course of his conference with Nacionalista Representative Isaias R. Salonga of Rizal, who called on him at the Guest House shortly before noon that day, the President appealed to politicians, Nacionalistas as well as Liberals, to forget the 1953 elections, for the time being and work together for the good of the country.

SCHEDULED to inaugurate the STANVAC building on December 28, the President returned to Manila just in time that morning to attend the inauguration. The President delivered an extemporaneous speech during the inauguration, saying that we approved the Parity Law "because we wanted the Americans to come" and help us develop this country not only for our own benefit but also for the benefit of the United States. (See full text of the speech on pp. 6012-6016.)

In the evening, the President presided over the regular meeting of the Cabinet, and approved the arrangement for the extension for 10 years of the payment of the \$60 million loan by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the United States to the Philippine government. The loan was contracted in 1947 by the Philippine government by authority of Congress in 1946, and payment was due on December 31, 1951. By authority of the President, the Central Bank negotiated with the United States RFC for the extension of the period to pay the loans.

THE Cabinet approved to extend invitation to the ECAFE to transfer its regional office now located in Bangkok, Siam, to Manila. Recently, Dr. P. S. Lokanathah, executive secretary of the ECAFE, was in Manila purportedly to see what facilities the Philippine government can offer to house the ECAFE headquarters here. The Cabinet also approved the sending of a delegation to the eighth session of the ECAFE to be held in Rangoon, Burma, from January 11 to February 9, 1952.

THE President held a conference in Malacañan on December 29 with the presidents of the Philippine Sugar Association and the National Federation of Sugar Planters, the members of the Export Control Committee, Chairman Jose Yulo of the PHILCUSA, and Sugar Quota Administrator Vicente G. Bunuan to discuss the overall policies regarding the export of sugar, particularly in connection with the exportation of sugar by many applicants who desire to enjoy the same permission granted to the ECA and to Messrs. Filadelfo Rojas, Cantos, and Quiambao. It was unanimously agreed by those present that persons or firms who desire to export sugar to countries outside the United States may do so provided the sugar to be exported comes from "C" sugar under Act 4166, which is sugar earmarked to cover shortages in export and domestic allotment or for sale to other countries outside the United States.

IN the afternoon of that day, the President visited Speaker Eugenio Perez at the latter's home to cheer him on his expected operation at Johns Hopkins and to wish him and Mrs. Perez *von voyage*. After one hour and 45 minutes with the Speaker, the President invited the Speaker and Mrs. Perez to ride with him to the airport. The President stayed at the airport among the hundreds of well-wishers until the Speaker's plane took off. President Quirino went up the plane to have a final intimate huddle with the Speaker.

THE President Sunday morning, December 30, unveiled the marker for the restoration of Rizal's cell in historic Fort Santiago, and shortly afterward delivered the only Rizal Day address, after being introduced by Secretary of Foreign

Affairs Carlos P. Romulo, chairman of the committee on Rizal Day commemoration. According to the President, speaking of our national hero, "The validity of Rizal to us is not based on the fact that he was a poet, a novelist, scholar, scientist, and the various other manifestations of his versatile intellect and genius. It is based on the fact that he provided us a dynamic, living faith as a nation and incarnated that faith in his thoughts, his life, and his death, better than anyone else did." (See HISTORICAL: PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 6116-6120, *for full text of the speech.*)

ON New Year's eve, December 31, the President granted the traditional executive clemency to 24 prisoners. He gave conditional pardon to the 24 prisoners upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole. The President also received in his study Manila Mayor-elect Arsenio H. Lacson with whom he conferred for about 15 minutes. Mayor Lacson was told by the President that he would induct the city mayor, the vice mayor, and the councilors, the next day, January 1, at a p.m., at the Palace. Malacañan announced on the same day that the President had designated Colonel Dionisio Ojeda, commanding officer of the 10th Battalion Combat Team, as acting Chief of Police of Manila, effective January 1.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: January, 1952

President's Month in Review: February, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

THE President on February 1 signed Executive Order No. 489, prohibiting the collection by private individuals or entities of abandoned scrap metals, unless they can establish their ownership. The order designated the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation as the government agency to collect the same.

On the same day the Cabinet went on record; in favor of nationalization of labor to stop the practice of many companies in the Philippines of importing the services of aliens instead of giving employment to Filipinos. The President directed Secretary of Justice Oscar Castelo to draft a bill providing for the nationalization of labor to be submitted to the present session of Congress.

ON February 5, the President suspended, effective immediately, Sugar Quota Administrator Vicente Bunuan pending investigation of his actuations in connection with the implementation of the directive of the Office of the President with regard to C sugar. Ramon L. Paguia was designated as Acting Sugar Quota Administrator to replace Bunuan during his suspension. Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo was directed by the President to conduct the investigation to find out why Bunuan made amendments to the directive of the Office of the President without consulting the Chief Executive.

In the course of his conference with the PRISCO board of directors at Malacañan in the afternoon of the same day, the President gave blanket authority to the PRISCO directors to effect retrenchment in all services of the corporation, including its auditing services which had been previously objected to by PRISCO auditors for the reason that their office is outside the jurisdiction of the executive department.

STEPS were taken by the Cabinet on February 6 to protect the public from the activities of certain organizations collecting fees for the registration of Japanese war notes. The President directed Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo to investigate such organizations and to alert all provincial fiscals to protect the trusting public from being victimized.

The Cabinet also raised the minimum salary of employees from ₱1,140 to ₱1,440 per annum or ₱120 a month in conformity with the Minimum Wage Law, when it took up the national budget, which was submitted to the Cabinet the previous day by Budget Commissioner Pio Joven. This action involves an additional appropriation of ₱12 million. The Cabinet made exception to its policy of not creating new positions in the case of the Bureau of Internal Revenue by providing additional positions for 80 internal revenue agents to bolster the collection of taxes.

IN consonance with President Quirino's policy and desire to have closer contact with local government officials, Malacañan announced on February 7 that Friday of each week has been set aside as conference day with provincial, city, and municipal officials. This does not, however, constitute a blanket authority for local officials to come to Manila without permission from the Office of the President. This arrangement has been made to give local officials opportunity to bring their respective problems before the Chief Executive.

Malacañan also announced that the President had signed Executive Order No. 491, making the president of the Philippine Mental Health Association a member of the National Advisory Council. The President also issued on that day Administrative Order No. 178, ordering department heads, bureaus, and office chiefs, and all other administrative officials not to incur expenditures in excess of appropriations allotted their respective offices. He also ordered the Export Control Committee to suspend immediately any exportation of sugar by Filadelfo Rojas to Japan. Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo directed to prosecute Rojas for libel or for any other action for which he was liable or answerable. Castelo was also ordered to investigate the records of the Sugar Quota Administration where papers were reported tampered for purposes of converting A sugar to C sugar to facilitate the export of this commodity to Japan.

The President's directive were made following the receipt of a copy of a letter from Senate President Quintin Paredes, supposed to have been written by Filadelfo Roxas to a Japanese firm in Tokyo wherein Rojas made assurances that the Chief Executive as well as the Philippine government was backing him up in the sugar deal.

IT was further announced by Malacañan on February 7 that the President had reshuffled his Cabinet by appointing Undersecretary of Education Cecilio Putong as Secretary of Education and Economic Coordination Administrator Pablo Lorenzo as Secretary of Public Works, vice Secretary Sotero Baluyut. Pio Pedrosa, general manager of the Manila Railroad Co., was named to succeed Lorenzo as Economic Coordination Administrator.

RAYMOND A. Spruance presented his credential as United States Ambassador to the Philippines to President Quirino in the afternoon of February 7 amidst simple ceremonies at the Malacañan ceremonial hall. Members of the Cabinet and high officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the U. S. Embassy were present at the ceremonies. Both President Quirino and Ambassador Spruance pledged their efforts in carrying out the common interests and objectives of the Philippines and the United States, which is the preservation of the heritage common to both countries. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS pp. 511-512, for texts of the statements of the President and the Ambassador.*)

PRESIDENT Quirino asked Vice-President Lopez during the cabinet meeting on February 8 to find out what became of the ₱3,000,000 which tenants of the Buenavista estate had paid the government shortly before the war and during the Japanese occupation. It was claimed that the huge sum was deposited with the courts but no one seems to know what happened to the money. This was the reason why many tenants of Buenavista who had paid for their lands have not been able to get their land titles.

THE President on February 9 inducted into office Dean Santiago F. de la Cruz of the UE's commerce department, as general manager of the Price Stabilization Corporation, vice Marcelo Eugenio. The President explained that he would not impose further sacrifices on the L. R. Aguinaldo firm by further retaining Eugenio in the PRISCO. The Chief Executive told De la Cruz that his appointment was not only in recognition of his ability but also an invitation to his university to participate in the affairs of the government. The President, moreover, took further steps to implement the Administration's land-for-the-landless program by authorizing the Director of Lands to cause to be filed in the Lanao Court of First Instance an application for the settlement and adjudication of the titles of a tract of land in Tubod, Lanao, with an area of about 3,126 hectares. According to the Vice President's endorsement, in his capacity as Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the survey of the said land was executed to help home-seekers find land in which they could settle and for which they may make applications so that they could eventually become the rightful owners of the land. Thus, they would be free from being harassed by unscrupulous persons who have been trying to eject the actual occupants because they claim to be the owners of the different portions of the above-mentioned land. f\ N February 10, the President recommended to Congress the extension of the effectivity of four tax measures which are expiring at the end of this year and early next year. These tax measures are the law increasing the rates of individual income tax, the law increasing the rates of corporate income tax, the law increasing the rates of specific tax, and the foreign exchange tax law. The President strongly urged Congress for the legislation extending these acts to June 30, 1954. Failure to extend these laws would mean loss of revenue amounting to ₱215 million. .

EXECUTIVE Order No. 492 was signed by the President on February 11 to give exclusive right to the Metropolitan Water District to import aluminum sulphate, chlorine, steel pipes, and cast iron fittings without the need of any kind of license which directly or indirectly limits or controls importation and foreign exchange. The articles to be imported will be used by the MWD solely for the operation of its waterworks and sewage systems.

The President honored U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance with a luncheon held at Malacañan on that day, where the promotion of mutual understanding and interests between the Philippines and the United States was pledged by the host and the honored guest. The luncheon was attended by high officials of the Philippine government, the Philippine Armed Forces, and the U. S. Army, Navy, and Airforce. Said Ambassador Spruance: "I love the Filipino people and love the country, and I will do all I can to aid the Philippines." In turn, the President said that Ambassador Spruance's record of service in the Orient and elsewhere shows that he will always be a friend of the Filipino people. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, p. 516, for full texts of the extemporaneous remarks.*)

THE President signed his budget message early on February 12 and sent it to Congress during its session that day. He said that the figures cited in the budget presents a complete picture of the Philippines' financial structure. The budget presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, calls for an expenditure of ₱587,231,475 which is

₱544,765 lower than the estimated receipts for the same period which amounts to ₱587,776,240. (See pp. 517-521 for full text of the message.)

AT the meeting of the Council of State on February 15, the President suggested that the two political parties of the country get together to decide on a national attitude regarding the reparations issue with Japan. The Chief Executive informed the Council of State that the Philippines will send a technical mission to Japan to find out what special services could be availed of from the former enemy country as part of the reparations payment. The President stressed the necessity of continuing with emergency powers given the Chief Executive in order to prepare for any eventuality that may suddenly develop as a result of the current tense international situation.

Speaking from Malacañan over a nationwide radio hookup on the occasion of his 40th monthly fireside chat, in the evening of that day, the President lashed out at his critics in the most comprehensive defense yet of the government's actuation on the controversial sale of sugar to Japan. He deplored "character assassins" for impugning his motives in allowing the exportation of C sugar to Japan. (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 523-526, for complete text of the radio chat.)

PIO Pedrosa's resignation as chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Railroad Company was turned down by the President on February 16. Pedrosa submitted his resignation as head of the government railway firm pending the disposition of the Rovero case by the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives. Pedrosa had authorized the Collector of Customs to constitute a committee of independent appraisers for reappraisal of the value of the confiscated diamonds while the Rovero case was pending in the courts.

The President told Pedrosa in turning down his resignation that his work in the railroad company has nothing to do with the case now pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. However, on Pedrosa's insistent request, the President recalled Pedrosa's nomination as administrator of the Office of Economic Coordination until he is cleared of his case to avoid embarrassing the government.

IN the course of his inspection of the work on the drydocks yard of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation in Mariveles on February 17, the President remarked that another step in the total economic mobilization program of the government will be realized soon with the expected completion at the end of this year of the huge drydock plant of the NASSCO in Mariveles. The Chief Executive was satisfied to find that the work on the ₱16 million project of the NASSCO was about 60 per cent completed. The President was accompanied in the inspection trips by Liberal and Nacionalista members of both Houses of Congress who were specially invited so that they could see what the government is doing to execute its industrialization program.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 18 that the President had accepted the resignation of Luis Lichauco as chairman of the board, of directors of the Land Settlement and Development Corporation. LASEDECO Manager Felix Maramba had also resigned, and his resignation was accepted recently by the board of directors of the corporation.

THE Cabinet in its meeting on February 19 decided to reduce the prices of lots in the government property in Diliman estate to enable low-income workers to own their land. The reduction, however, is limited only to the 4th and 5th class lots which are sold to low-income employees. Lots classified as fourth class which range in price from ₱5.00 to ₱7.00 will be reduced to from ₱4.50 to ₱5.11 a square meter, and the fifth class lots ranging in price from ₱3.00 to ₱5.00 will be sold from ₱2.19 to ₱4.65 a square meter.

On the same day, the President received on behalf of the Philippine government a ₱1 million check from the alien property office of the U. S. Department of Justice in ceremonies held at Malacañan's council of state room. Stanley Gilbert, manager of the local U. S. alien property office, turned over the check on behalf of the American government. This latest transfer brought to ₱4,550,000 the total cash transfers made to the Philippine government by the U. S. OAP, formerly the PAPA, pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Property Act of 1946.

Following the ceremonies which took place shortly before noon, the Chief Executive administered the oath of office to former Labor Secretary Marcelo Adduru as general manager of the LASEDECO, vice resigned.

PRESIDENT Quirino on February 20 signed Executive Order No. 493, further amending Executive Order No. 178 entitled "Prescribing the procedure, including modes of proof in cases before court-martial, courts of inquiry, military commissions, and other military tribunals of the Army of the Philippines" as amended by three previous executive orders.

MALACAÑAN announced on February 20 that President Quirino had decided to lay down a policy banning the exportation of sugar quota to that country has been filled. The Philippines sugar quota to the United States is 850,000 long tons. The new policy also includes a proposal by the President and approved by the sugarmen that the five per cent of the total sugar crop which the Cabinet had previously earmarked for export to non American markets to develop new outlets for Philippine sugar will be diverted to the domestic sugar quota in order to increase the supply for local needs in an effort to bring down prices. This decision was reached by the President after a two-hour conference with sugar planters and millers on the one hand and his advisers on the other at the council of state room in Malacañan.

It was also announced by Malacañan that Board Member Anastacio Valencia of the provincial board of Bataan had been suspended indefinitely pending the final determination of the courts of the criminal case of frustrated murder filed against him.

ON February 21, the President directed the Sugar Quota Administration to plug all loopholes whereby sugar for domestic consumption may find its way abroad. This directive was issued because the President was determined to bring down the price of domestic sugar so that this commodity could be brought within the reach of the masses.

THE President on February 23 ordered the fund release committee composed of Secretary of Finance Aurelio Montinola, Auditor General Manuel Agregado, and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to investigate and report to the President without loss of time the unliquidated cash advances. The President also called his financial assistant and ordered him to explain in 24 hours why his name and those of his family appear among those with outstanding accounts whereas he had been given the impression that those accounts had already been settled. The President wrote out a check for ₱10,000 and ordered Financial Assistant Casimiro L. Dacanay to settle those accounts at once.

At about 10 o'clock that same day, the President motored to the Funeraria Paz to view the body of the late Felipe Estella, former Manager of the National Development Company who died on February 21. In the afternoon, the President formally opened the fifth annual art exhibit at the showroom of Northern Motors, Inc., on Isaac-Peral. The Chief Executive also presented the awards to the prize winners in the contest in painting held in connection with the art exhibit sponsored by the Art Association of the Philippines.

PRESIDENT Quirino was host to about 500 delegates to the national convention of the Catholic Women's League at a tea party held at Malacañan in the afternoon of February 24. The President lauded the spirit behind the stand of the Catholic Women's League of the Philippines against communism and urged that this organization also exert its influence to unite and solidify the country.

THE President; on February 25 took up with representatives of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine Chamber of Industries the problem of speeding up the implementation of the industrialization program of the country. In his conference with Antonio de las Alas, FCC president, and Jose P. Marcelo. PCI president, the Chief Executive discussed the practicability of clothing the Office of Economic Coordination with more powers so as to include within its jurisdiction both government and private corporations with the end in view of coordinating their activities to hasten the economic development of the country.

PRESIDENT Quirino on February 25 opened the first meeting of the National Economic Council charged with the study and recommendations of the proposed revisions in the trade relations between the Philippines and the United States. The President, urged that the Council make a thorough study of all the changes we would like the United States to know that we should like to be made in. the Bell Trade Act. The Council would meet weekly at the council of state room in Malacañan.

AT the Cabinet meeting on February 26, the President signed the deportation order of three wealthy Chinese involved in smuggling strategic materials to Communist China. Those ordered deported were K. H. Pwell Kong, George Kong, and Lee Che Min, alleged to be a former Nationalist general. These three detained in the Bureau of Immigration will be deported to China or Formosa on the first available transportation. The President informed the Cabinet that according to a cablegram from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, President Truman had signed that day the papers on military aid to the Philippines. This involves the sum of ₱10 million which the Philippines will use in its campaign against the Huks.

A COMPLETE change in the Import Control Commission membership was made by the President on February 27. He designated Mayor Frimitivo Lovuia of Pasay as chairman and Railroad Manager Pio Pedrosa and Leon Ancheta, head of the foreign exchange department of the Philippine National Bank, as members. According to Malacañan, the new members of the Commission were merely designated and will continue to hold their present positions in the government

CONGRESS leaders assured the President at an informal get-together-luncheon at Malacañan that day of the solid support and cooperation of Liberal Party members in both Houses of Congress to various administrative measures designed to speed up the government's program of economic development. The President impressed upon LP Senators and Congressmen the necessity of closing ranks for the purpose of carrying out their collective responsibilities to the nation.

In a conference City Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila had with the President on the same day, the Chief Executive told him to send city squatters to the new workers' barrio Bago-Bantay at the hospital site on Highway-54 at Quezon City. The President told Mayor Lacson that the ECA is constructing houses for the laboring class in Bago-Bantay to accommodate families who were moved from the slums of Manila in connection with the President's program of slum clearance. Mayor Lacson conferred with the President on the problem of moving squatters from the city property, and the President told the mayor to go ahead with his plan about squatters.

THE President called a meeting at Malacañan on February 28 of the Fund Release Committee to determine the nature and extend of the reported unliquidated accounts of the government recently publicized. He asked the Committee to render a report without loss of time. He gave instructions that all existing laws, rules, and regulations affecting prompt settlement of accounts, particularly disbursing accounts receivable, and accounts payable be enforced strictly and and official or employee who may be found guilty of delay in the liquidation of accounts be dealt with administratively or criminally as the facts may warrant upon receipt of the recommendation of the Auditor General.

On the same day, the President swore into office the new members of the Import Control Commission, namely Pasay City Mayor Primitivo Lovina, as chairman, and Railroad Manager Ho Pedrosa and Leon Ancheta of the PNB foreign exchange departments as members.

IN a letter to President Quirino which was sent on February 29 through the U. S. Embassy in Manila, President Harry S. Truman paid high tribute to the Philippine President's determination to align the new Republic once and for all among democratic nations of the world President Truman wrote the letter to congratulate President Quirino on the "statesmanlike message which you delivered to the Congress of the Philippines on January 28th last" President Truman added: "It is a message at once brave, courageous and clear in vision."

The President on the same day decided to nominate Justice Alejo Labrador, Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, to membership in the Supreme Court. Labrador's successor will be considered after his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, Malacañan announced. Malacañan also announced the appointment to the PRISCO board of Augusto Espiritu, former member of the Import Control Commission.

Malacañan announced on the same day that the President had asked Congress to extend the laws on export control and to rice control which expire at the termination of the present session of Congress and on June 30, 1952, respectively. The President said in his message that in the interest of the national economy and security the control, mi export of critical materials should continue.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: March, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

March 1.—The President had an informal luncheon conference at Malacañan with some senators and representatives who took up with, the Chief Executive matters affecting their respective constituents. Shortly before the President received the solons, a delegation of sugar planters of Pampanga called to apprise the President of the alleged worsening peace and order condition in Pampanga', The President told the planters that he would take up the matter of detailing a battalion combat team in Pampanga as per their request With Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay. The President said that the organization of |the so-called "temporary police" or "private guards" is allowable provided that they are incorporated as regular members of the police force, and provided that funds could foe raised to pay them their regular monthly salaries.

The President also ordered the deportation of four undesirable Chinese nationals on the first available transportation to China or Formosa, upon the recommendation of the Deportation Board following its finding that the Chinese lack papers and were guilty of the crimes of which they had been accused. Lee Sy and Kuan Fat were convicted of illegal possession of prohibited drugs; Antonio Chong Yee, of theft and robbery; and Sy Chut alias Benito Sy, of estafa.

March 2.—The President took off on the army plane *Pagasa* at 9:30 a.m. for Legaspi City on his six-day tour of the Bicol provinces. Included in the presidential party were some Cabinet members, a senator, and some representatives. On hand at the Legaspi airport to give the party a warm reception upon the President's arrival at 11:12 a.m. was a large crowd headed by Nacionalista Governor Manuel Mi Calleja, Representative Lorenzo P. Ziga, Legaspi Mayor Marcial Rañola, and the mayors of all municipalities of Albay. From the airport the President was whisked in a motorcade to the city hall for cocktails offered by Mayor Rañola. The Chief Executive then conferred with city officials and inquired into pressing problems of the city administration.

At 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, the President opened the national interscholastic athletic meet in the newly built Quirino Stadium before 100,000 people from all over the Philippines. In opening the meet, the President paid tribute to the character training of the Filipino people in knowing how to compete and in knowing how to lose. According to him, the Filipino fights with fortitude but he also knows how to accept defeat. The President, appealed to the people "never to lose faith in the survival of this nation because it will live forever."

March 3.—After he had seen the devastation of the coconut industry by typhoons and by coconut pest called Kadang-Kadang, the President cabled Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo from Legaspi City, to make representations with the United States legislative and executive departments of the Federal Government reiterating Philippine request for the abolition of the coconut excise tax. The President instructed Romulo to see President Truman at the first opportunity and to express President Quirino's personal concern. The President said that the people of the Bicol region will be deprived of their coconut fruits in the next three years as a result of the typhoons.

The President spent his second day in Legaspi conferring with local officials, farmers, and businessmen on their problems regarding abaca and copra. Before noon, he motored to Tiwi and visited the sulphur springs and the scenic spots at the foot of Mayon Volcano, with a view to turning them into tourists attractions. He also visited nearby towns including Tabaco, Bacacay, and Libog and inspected the copra and abaca industries. The Chief Executive spoke briefly at the town plaza of Tabaco where he was greeted with parades and brass bands. He motored back to Legaspi after dinner at Representatives Ziga's home.

March 4.—After an evening sea voyage from Legaspi aboard the yacht *Apo*, the presidential party landed on the coastal town of Bacon about 9:30 a.m. Thousands lined the streets where the President passed from the port town to Sorsogon. On arrival at Sorsogon, the Chief Executive went to the provincial high school grounds where he laid the marker for the new ₱850,000 high school building at the site of the former building burned by the Japanese during the war. The President authorized the release of ₱200,000 for the completion of the new building. The President conferred with provincial and municipal officials at the provincial capital. In the afternoon, the President addressed a public meeting at the Plaza Bonifacio. In the evening, the presidential party boarded the presidential yacht at Bacon for a sea trip to Virae, Catanduanes.

Malacañan announced that the President had ordered the immediate suspension of Teofilo Cabrera as member of the Provincial Board of Pangasinan pending the final disposition of the criminal case of treason filed against him at the Court of First Instance of Surigao.

March 5.—The presidential party arrived in Virac at 9:30 a.m., two hours behind schedule owing to heavy rain and rough sea. It was still raining when the President landed at Virac, but the people of the province turned out *en masse* to welcome him. The President proceeded to the high school after hearing a *Te Deum* in the church, and delivered a speech wherein he appealed for unity among the people in pushing the government program of public improvement.

Immediately upon learning of the election of Senator Quintin Paredes as President of the Senate, the Chief Executive sent his congratulation to Senator Paredes, saying, "... you can now clear the deck for important legislation." The President likewise congratulated Nacionalista Senator Felixberto M. Verano for his "patriotic stand, in breaking the Senate deadlock."

March 6.—Malacañan announced that the President had issued a directive to all provincial governors and city mayors giving priority to the payment of accumulated vacation and sick leaves of government officers, employees, and laborers who resign or are separated from the service, against the claims for salaries of new employees appointed to these vacated positions. The directive which was embodied in an unnumbered circular warned that a violation of the order will be dealt with administratively.

March 7.—The President returned to Manila in the evening after a six-day fruitful tour of the Bicol region. In his tour, the Chief Executive gathered data necessary in the preparation of a national program of action in the execution of the Government's program of economic development. He also carried to the provinces his campaign for unity and solidification in order to make the country strong in the face of threats from the Communists.

March 8.—The President received at Malacañan a delegation of coconut producers and informed them of his desire to meet all members of the Philippine Coconut Planters Association during their convention in Manila that week.

The President also conferred with Secretary of Commerce Cornelio Balmaceda on the proposed Philippine International Fair tentatively scheduled to be held for three months from May 1 to July 31, 1953, at the Wallace Field. As originally planned, a ₱6-million corporation will be organized to manage and operate the 1953 fair and take charge of the other world fairs to be held periodically in Manila. The capitalization is divided into 80,000 shares at the par value of ₱100 a share. Being a national and community enterprise, the government is to give to it its whole backing and support.

March 10.—Malacañan announced that the President had signed the nomination of Alejo Labrador, presiding justice of the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court. The nomination was forwarded immediately to the Commission on Appointments.

The President also authorized Philippine participation in the 14th and 15th sessions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) scheduled to commence in New York City on March 24 and May 13, 1952. The President designated Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as Philippine representative and Salvador P. Lopez, Jose D. Ingles, Mauro Mendez, Narciso Reyes, and Adriano Garcia as alternates.

March 11.—During a cabinet meeting aboard the presidential yacht *Apo*, the President directed National Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay to resume his inspection of the various camps of the Armed Forces and the different battalion combat teams in the Philippines with a view to further intensify the peace and order campaign.

The Cabinet decided to mobilize the country for increased food production in the face of the unsettled world conditions. The Cabinet also approved to intensify the campaign against Communism, and to revive the Mobilization Bill which provides for preparedness in the event of war. The Cabinet, furthermore, decided to accelerate the settlement of public lands to attract the landless to settle in Mindanao and other sparsely populated places, and to bolster the economic development of the country.

March 12.—Executive Order No. 494 issued by the President sets the daily working time for government offices from April 1 to June 15, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. without interruption, at the discretion of the heads of the departments, subject to the requirements of the service. The presidential order does not apply to government employees in Baguio whether national, provincial, or municipal.

On the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, the President also issued Proclamation No. 305, publishing the latest values of five foreign currencies for purposes of assessment and collection of customs duties.

Moreover, the President created an Organization Committee to form the corporation which will be known as the Philippine International Fair, Inc., envisaged as a permanent institution which will take charge of the 1953 Philippine Exposition and other world fairs which will be held in Manila from time to time. Commerce Secretary Balmaceda was named as chairman of the committee and Antonio de las Alas, Jose P. Marcelo, J. L. Manning, Sy En, Alfonso Sy Cip, Wilfrid Wooding, Enrique Pfitz, Hashoomed Cianchand, Joaquin V. Gonzales, Ramon del Rosario, Vicente Faelnar, M. J. Gonzales, and Modesto Farolan, members.

Malacañan announced that Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo had cabled from Washington to President Quirino that the American government has finally approved the priority rating for materials and equipment needed by the power project at Maria Cristina and the pyrite plant, both in Lanao. Out of this grant of priority, the Philippines would be able to complete its power plant at Maria Cristina and the pyrite plant according to schedule.

The President signed the first bill enacted during the current session of Congress, to be known as Republic Act No. 674, which entitles sanitary division employees to enjoy both vacation and sick leave privileges that can be accumulated provided the total does not exceed five months, thus placing them on equal footing with other government employees with civil service eligibilities,

March 14.—After consultation with his Cabinet, the President signed Senate Bill No. 250 entitled “An Act to Fix the Salaries of Physicians under the Department of Health,” and vetoed two bills. The vetoed bills were House Bill No. 2126 entitled “An Act to Regulate the Practice of Chemistry in the Philippines and for Other Purposes” and House Bill No. 1585 entitled “An Act Providing for a Revised Schedule of Salaries and Automatic Promotion for Radio and Telegraph Operators and Other Technical and Field Employees of the Telecommunication Service of the Government.”

The Cabinet took stock of the world situation following receipt of a cablegram from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo in Washington on the transfer of Philippines defense and that of Formosa from the command of General Mathew B. Ridgeway to Admiral Arthur W. Radford at Pearl Harbor. The Cabinet viewed this move in the U.S. strategy as indicative of worsening situation in the Far East. In this connection, the President asked Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay on the progress of recruiting men for the battalion combat teams. Magsaysay reported that there are so many volunteers very eager to join the Armed Forces to fight communism, that it would be easy to raise an army of 100,000 men any time. The President, therefore, instructed Magsaysay to lose no time in organizing the new combat teams which will be financed from ₱10 million aid that the United States has given the Armed Forces in its fights against Hukbalahaps and the Communist in the country.

March 15,—The President returned to Malacañan from the presidential yacht *Apo* anchored in Manila Bay where he had stayed since March 10, to cure a bad cold which he had caught during his inspection tour of the Bicol region. After receiving the scheduled callers composed mostly of senators and representatives, the President convoked the regular monthly meeting of the Council of State at 12 noon. After the meeting, the President went with the members of the Council of State to Senator Esteban R. Abada’s residence to wish the Senator a happy birthday.

The President issued Proclamation No. 306, extending the fifth annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross up to April 15, 1952. Proclamation No. 303 issued previously fixed the date for the fund campaign from February 15 to March 14, 1952.

The Council of State approved President Quirino’s proposed measures to place the country in a state of preparedness for any eventuality. The nation’s highest advisory body endorsed the civilian defense and mobilization bills which

the Cabinet decided to activate at its recent meeting. The Council also approved the creation of a sort of clearing committee on projected legislation. The committee will study the bills that are pending and those proposed, for the purpose of facilitating their enactment. The Council believes that such a clearing committee would have avoided enactment of the two bills vetoed by the President the previous day, because their defects would have been remedied by the committee before their final passage by Congress. It was agreed that Senate President Quintin Paredes will nominate three members from the Senate; Acting Speaker Veloso, three members from the House; and the President, three members from the Cabinet to constitute the Clearing Committee.

In his 41st monthly radio chat, the President rallied the nation to constructive action towards the fulfillment of the administration's program of "total economic mobilization." The President said that idle talk "or abstract theorizing cannot move our people to action. Examples demonstrative of accomplishments are needed to convince and inspire our people to similar deeds." He pointed out that "in our industrial awakening, as well as in war, we need a moral rearmament to steel our mind and soul in the prosecution of our objectives." (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 978-981 for full text of the radio chat.*)

March 16.—In a speech during the parade and review given in his honor by the ROTC units on the Luneta, the President rallied the youth to the fight against enemies of freedom. These enemies, he said, now have their agents working in our midst. The President called for "moral rearmament" of the Filipino people to meet the "actual and active threat" to national existence posed by Communism. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 982-985, for full text of the speech.*)

In his brief remarks to the delegates of the National Planters Association who were his guests at cocktails at Malacañan in the evening, the President announced his plan to create a coconut institute in connection with the program of the government to give full backing for the improvement and expansion of the coconut industry

March 17.—The President sent to the Senate for ratification the Japanese peace treaty and the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Pact. In his message to the Senate, the President said that he was submitting the two treaties together because they are the product of complementary negotiations for a single purpose, to assure the security of the Philippines by helping strengthen the defense machinery of the democracies in Asia.

The President conferred with Senator Geronima T. Pecson and Mayor Primitivo Lovina of Pasay City, acting chairman and general manager of the Home Financing Corporation, regarding the necessity of amending the Home Financing Act designed to provide homes for laborers and low-salaried employees. Mayor Lovina recommended to the President certain amendments to the Home Financing Act sponsored by Senator Pecson in last year's congressional session, owing to the difficulty in implementing the Act in its present form.

The President told local businessmen gathered at the cocktail party given at Malacañan in honor of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines and their guests, that he was for encouraging smaller industries and for promoting what he called "horizontal" development of Philippine industry. The party preceded the presentation of awards to some 39 businessmen and firms for their contribution to the economy in 1951, and to eight manufacturers of Philippine-made products which were voted outstanding during the year by the business writers association.

March 18.—The President sent to the Senate for immediate ratification the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation and Prostitution of Others and the Final Protocol which had been signed at Lake Success by the Philippine representatives and those of other countries. The Convention consolidates four existing international instruments dealing with the suppression of traffic in women and children and embodies the substance of the 1937 draft Convention prepared by the League of Nations. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 1949, and was signed by the UN members on March 21, 1950.

Malacañan announced the suspension of Mayor Joaquin R. Banzon of Pilar, Bataan, who had been charged with estafa in the Court of First Instance of Bataan, in the Justice of the Peace Court of Pilar, and in the Court of First Instance of Manila. His suspension will continue until final determination of the three criminal cases charged against him, pursuant to the standing policy of the administration to suspend from office any local elective official accused in court of any crime involving moral turpitude.

The Cabinet laid down a policy against raising the ceiling prices of foodstuffs and other articles which may be classified as luxuries. The Cabinet ruled that commodities like sardines, Kraft cheese, wines, etc. should be imported at the present level of prices or lower; otherwise, their entry into the country should be limited in order to encourage their local production.

March 19.—The President sent a special message to both houses of Congress recommending extension of the special quota of 1,200 American citizens under the Executive Agreement between the United States and the Philippines through some kind of understanding or supplementary agreement. The Executive Agreement expired on December 31, 1951. (*See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 985-986, for full text of the message.*)

The President, submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of Salvador Araneta, formerly Economic Coordination Administrator, as member of the National Economic Council, and of Emiliano Morabe, as chief of the Wage Administration Service.

The President received Edgar M. Elbert, visiting first vice president of the Lion's International, who presented him with a Parker pen desk set with the inscription, "Lionism honors President Quirino." The gift was donated by the Lion's 455,000 members from 36 countries as a token of their recognition of the Philippine Chief Executive as one of the foremost champions of democracy in the world. In presenting the gift Mr. Elbert said, "You may not know it, Mr. President, but your fight against communism has won the admiration of peoples outside the boundaries of your country, particularly those of us who love freedom and democracy."

March 20.—The President recommended to Congress the amendment of Republic Act No. 357 so as to authorize the National Power Corporation to contract loans not only from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development but also from the Export-Import Bank of Washington and other international lending institutions. Under the present law, the NPC could contract loans not to exceed \$50 million from the IBRD only. The President considers this limitation as a serious handicap as the NPC is now in urgent need of loans beyond what the IBRD can actually grant.

The President also certified to Congress the necessity of immediately enacting H.B. No. 793 entitled: "An Act transferring the custody of the funds for the retirement of bonds issued by the Government, including provinces, cities, and municipalities, and the function of investing the same from the Bureau of the Treasury to the Central Bank of the Philippines by amending Act No. 3014." The bill says that as fiscal agent of the Government, the Central Bank should also perform the work of investing the sinking funds.

The President conferred with officials of the Philippine-American Life Insurance Company and the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation on the former's proposal to develop housing projects for moderate-income families in Quezon City. The insurance company informed the President that it was ready to go into a big scale housing projects for families in the low-income bracket, not only in Manila but also in Baguio, Iloilo, Cebu, Tacloban, Davao, and other cities. The Company, however, wants to start with the housing project in Quezon City on the property owned by the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation. The meeting was a preliminary discussion on the insurance company's proposal to buy lands belonging to the PHHC with a view of erecting houses which the company would sell on 20-year installment plans to moderate-income families. The President said that he would study the proposal further after hearing from the board of directors of the PHHC.

During a conference with Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque over routine matters, the President signed the appointments of Education Undersecretary Cecilio Putong, U. P. President Vidal A. Tan, Teodoro Evangelista, Jorge Pocobo, and Mrs. Francisco Tirona-Benitez as members of the board of directors of the U. S. Educational Foundation in the Philippines for another term expiring on December 31, 1952. The President also reappointed Jaime C. de Veyra and Severino Fernandez as members of the Philippine Historical Committee for another term of three years expiring on January 20, 1955.

March 21.—Malacañan announced the approval by the President of House Bill No. 267, appropriating ₱100,000 for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Aborlan Agricultural High School in Palawan. The law which becomes

Republic Act No. 676, in effect converts the Aborlan High school into a national agricultural secondary institution similar to those created in various provinces.

The President motored to the Manila International Airport at 3:30 p.m. to meet Speaker Eugenio Perez who arrived by plane from the United States. "Welcome home, Mr. Speaker; I am glad to see you in good health" the President said as he embraced Speaker Perez.

The President administered the oath of office to members of the newly created Food Commission at the Council of State room. Inducted were Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo, Jr., chairman; Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry Saturnine Mendinueto, National Food Production Manager Francisco Marquez, Aurelio Intertas, representing the consuming public, and Dulce L. Bocobo, representing the Institute of Nutrition, as members. Miss Bocobo will also act as executive secretary of the commission. The Food Commission shall be charged with the formulation of a food and nutrition policy for the country and the coordination of all governmental activities necessary to implement this policy.

March 22.—In a press interview on board the presidential train enroute to San Fernando La Union, the President said that the Government would carry out its plan to extend the railroad line up to Echague, Isabela. He said that the rail extension to Echague is necessary because no more ships call at the port of Aparri in Cagayan. This makes the transport of products such as tobacco, logs, and peanuts from the Cagayan Valley very costly, he pointed out. The President disclosed that Congress had already authorized the contracting of a ₱45-million loan for the project.

After laying the cornerstone of the fourth cement plant in the Philippines at the Canaoay site in San Fernando, La Union, the President said the Government had started the aggressive industrialization of Northern Luzon with the laying of the marble cornerstone of the cement plant that afternoon. Upon arrival at San Fernando on board the presidential train at 12:30 p.m., the President proceeded directly to the cement plant site for the ceremony, The President made a brief stop at Dagupan City about 11 a.m. to visit the scene of the recent big fire in that city.

March 24.—The President authorized the release of ₱7,323,000 to cover the peso requirements of the Ambuklao hydro-electric power project, in Central Luzon. This release will be taken from the ₱15 million appropriation for productive and income-producing projects. Completion of the Ambuklao project will provide cheap electric power to Northern and Central Luzon provinces, and to the steel mill being constructed in Mariveles.

Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay had a three-hour conference with the President at the Philippine Navy rest house on Poro, San Fernando, to report to the Chief Executive on his "fruitful" conversation with U. S. Navy Secretary Dan Kimball on the matter of closer cooperation and coordination between the Philippine armed forces and the United States Navy, and the aid which our forces might receive from the U. S. Navy.

The President signed a proclamation declaring Wednesday, April 9, 1952, as Bataan Day. Upon signing the proclamation, the President remarked: "This is the first document signed at the Key West of the Philippines." The document was signed on the lawn of the Philippine Navy rest house, otherwise known as the Key West of the Philippines. April 9, 1952, marks the 10th anniversary of the fall of Bataan.

March 25.—The President issued Executive Order No. 498, fixing the ceiling prices of certain brands of imported ground coffee and canned fish. New ceiling prices were fixed for Santa. Fe and Chase and Sanborn coffee and salmon to include the 17 per cent special tax on foreign exchange, plus the 7 per cent and 1 per cent municipal taxes.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released ₱33,085 to the Bureau of Animal Industry for the purchase of feeds for cattle in the government's stock farms in Alabang and other places. The President ordered the release in line with his policy of promoting cattle breeding to improve the local stock and replace cattle losses sustained by the country during the Japanese occupation. The President also authorized the release of ₱6,020 for the purchase of additional milk bottles to enable the Bureau of Animal Industry to meet the increasing demand for milk produced at its dairy farms.

March 26.—In his speech delivered during the inauguration of the Philippine-American Insurance Company housing project in Baguio, the President called upon, private enterprise to help in the fight against communism by playing an active role in the social amelioration program of the government. The Chief Executive said that the greatest objective of his administration is to raise the standard of living of the poor people. He cited the newly-inaugurated housing project as an example of private enterprise participating in government effort to stamp out communism by promoting the social welfare of the masses.

March 27.—In his speech as guest of honor at the 4th national congress of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce at Baguio City auditorium, the President sounded a call for preparedness, military and economic, in the face of world developments which have prompted all nations to prepare. He expressed confidence that the Jaycees, being a non-partisan organization, would back him up in the national effort to intensify the development of our economic resources.

The President announced in a press conference at the Guest House in the evening that the constabulary will replace the marines in Negros Occidental as the latter will be assigned to combat duties. Explaining his decision to have the marines replaced by the constabulary, the President said that, the constabulary soldiers are really the ones in charge of the maintenance of peace and order.

March. 28.—The President arrived at the Manila International Airport at 10:20 a.m. aboard the PAF plane *Pagasa* following his six-day sojourn in San Fernando, La Union, and Baguio City.

At exactly 11 a.m., Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance called at the President in Malacañan. The President asked Mrs. Roosevelt to sit in the presidential chair at his desk in his Palace study, and requested her to autograph two books from his library shelf, entitled *Franklin D. Roosevelt's Own Story and This I Remember*. The latter was written by Mrs. Roosevelt.

At the luncheon he gave in Malacañan in honor of Mrs. Roosevelt that noon, the President said that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's presence in the Philippines has rekindled the Filipinos enthusiasm and given the Philippines hopes to work for the preservation of national unity which the famed lady and her husband "helped to build." In her response, Mrs. Roosevelt expressed her appreciation of the existing feeling of friendship between the Philippines and the United States and of the fact that "together we can cooperate in the great world family of nations to help preserve the peace of the world." The luncheon was attended by members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps and their ladies, and prominent women leaders. (See HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS, pp. 986-988, for full text of the message.)

In the evening, the President inducted Col. Victor H. Dizon as Acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator. After the induction ceremonies, the President told Col. Dizon that the request of Cebu Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr. that the Cebu strip "be transferred to the spacious island adjacent to the city cannot be granted at present in view of the lack of enough funds to effect the transfer. Transfer of the Cebu airport to the nearby island would cost about ₱6 ½ million, as it would necessitate the construction of a bridge over the seaway between Opon Island and the Cebu mainland.

March 29.—Malacañan announced the nomination of Luis Manalang as director of the Placement Bureau, Department of Labor. This new bureau is in charge of locating employment for people seeking for work. Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, was nominated member of the Board of Review for Motion Pictures. Both nominations were sent to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

The President told a delegation of about 506 tenants living in the area of the proposed Harrison Park who called at Malacañan that they were squatting on a national government property and that they should move out to the government housing site in Bago Bantay. The Chief Executive told a 15-man vanguard of the delegation of tenants that they were living in a "very dangerous place." He asked the tenants to apply for the homes being constructed in Bago Bantay.

March 30.—After an informal conference in San Fernando, La Union, with Major General Calixto Duque, Chief of Staff of the AFP, and Captain Jose M. Francisco, Chief of the Philippine Navy, the President decided to send the marines who have been replaced in Negros Occidental to the southern islands to curb smuggling in that region. The President arrived at the San Fernando airport aboard the army plane *Pagasa* at 10: 20 a.m. after an hour's flight from Manila.

Immediately after receiving news of the fatal Philippine Air Lines plane crash in Baguio wherein Jaycees had figured, the President ordered his aide to get details of the fatal accident. The President expressed profound sorrow over the accident.

March 31 .—The President was awarded a gold medal by the National Federation of Women's Club in token of his "profound and lasting appreciation" for the children and women of the Philippines. The presentation of the award took place at the Malacañan ceremonial hall before some 300 women delegates to the 12th biennial convention and 31st anniversary of the NFWC. After the ceremony, the President was host at a tea party for the women conventionists.

In an informal talk with reporters in the evening after the tea he gave in honor of the delegates to the women's convention, the Chief Executive said that it is the prerogative of Congress to go over the budget. He said he was not averse to the idea of Congress pruning the budget "if they can intelligently reduce it." The President also justified his appointment of Minister Emilio Abello as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, saying that "we are wasting talent" with the stay of Abello in the Philippine Consulate in New York. The President cited precedents from America and the Philippine judicial history to justify his appointment of Abello.

The President ordered the suspension of Mayor Santiago Ortega and five policemen of Iriga, Camarines Sur, accused by the provincial fiscal of taking advantage of their positions and using force and violence to compel private citizens to leave and vacate their house. The suspension order was issued in accordance with the standing policy of the administration of suspending any local elective official accused in court for offense involving moral turpitude.

The President received a preliminary report on the fatal Baguio air crash from Col. Victor H. Dizon, Acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: April, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1:

The President received Col. Bernard Anderson and Daniel M. Gomez of the Philippine Airlines who submitted the preliminary report on the fatal Baguio air crash. The President sent his condolences to all the families of the Jaycee victims of the Baguio plane crash, and to the entire membership of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines through a letter he sent Ramon V. del Rosario, a leading Jaycee member.

The President conferred with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on the latest status of the mutual defense pact between the Philippines and the United States, and the Japanese peace treaty in the Senate where they had been submitted for ratification. Elizalde gave the President a fill-in on the progress of his conference with Senate leaders on the two treaties.

In the evening, the Chief Executive congratulated former Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista on his induction as President of the Far Eastern University on his 46th birthday. The message which was sent from aboard the presidential yacht *Apo* said: "Men rise to occasions befitting their character, integrity and lofty ideals" and that Evangelista has "the opportunity to be a great university president."

April 3:

In a breakfast conference aboard the presidential yacht *Apo*, Dr. Roland R. Renne, chairman of the Mutual Security Agency (formerly ECA), informed the President that Washington was favorably impressed with the progress of the development program in the Philippines and that Washington is anxious to assist further in this work. During the conference, Dr. Renne and PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo informed the President on the progress of the work of the MSA and the PHILCUSA and Dr. Renne's favorable report to Washington which he had rendered in his recent trip to the United States. The President was informed that the blueprint for the reclamation of the Candaba swamps was practically completed.

The President held two conferences in Malacañan on international problems. Shortly before lunch, he conferred with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, Major General Calixto Duque, and Major General Albert Pierson, chief of the JUSMAG, on the latest developments on the local and international situations. At noon, he had a luncheon conference with U. S. Ambassador Raymond Spruance with whom he exchanged notes on the Japanese peace treaty. Foreign Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde was present at the luncheon conference.

Before leaving for Iloilo in the afternoon, the President signed Proclamation No. 310, declaring Wednesday, April 9, 1952, a special public holiday in the Province of Bataan to give the people of Bataan full opportunity to observe the day with fitting ceremonies. The President also signed Proclamation No. 311, declaring Saturday, April 12, a special public holiday, since it falls between Good Friday and Sunday.

April 4:

Malacañan announced that the President had signed House Bill No. 1656, now Republic Act No. 677, granting the Pan Asia Newspaper Alliance (PANA) temporary permit to establish a radio receiving stations for the purpose of copying for publication press messages from radio stations outside the Philippines. The President vetoed House Bill No. 1651, converting the provincial trade school in Camarines Sur into a national school of arts and trade and appropriating certain sums of money for the maintenance of the proposed school. The President returned the bill to the House of Representatives because the P50,000 authorized to carry out the purpose of the bill was considered far short of the P300,000 estimated by the Department of Education as the amount needed to convert a trade school into a national school of arts and trade.

Speaking at the plaza at the Romblon provincial capitol, the President enjoined the people of Romblon to contribute to the total activity of constructive efforts to make the country prosperous. He told them that the total economic mobilization program of the Government would bring about more equitable distribution of economic benefits. He urged the people to plant all available lands and to make the national food production campaign a success.

April 5:

Before 50,000 Ilongos gathered at Plazoleta Gay to welcome the Chief Executive in Iloilo City, Governor Mariano Peñaflores launched the candidacy of President Quirino for reelection in 1953. In reply, the President said that his future is in the hands of the people of Iloilo. Both declarations were greeted with cheers and applause. In his inspired speech, the President said that everything he was doing, like the economic industrial development of the country, was for the benefit of the masses.

At 4 in the afternoon, the President inaugurated the P2 million cement factory at Guimaras, owned by the Lopez family. The President returned to Iloilo before 6 o'clock.

April 6:

The President, in a message sent to the Lions Club convention in Baguio, paid tribute to the organization for setting up "a record of achievement in civic spirit and public service not easy to match." The President said, "In making the whole nation Lion-conscious, you have stirred up the most encouraging prospects of a new feeling of active social participation and cooperation that we most desire and need in the building of our young Republic."

The President, amidst the rousing cheers of followers of the opposing political factions at the University Club in Bacolod, signed a proclamation lifting the order suspending the writ of habeas corpus in Occidental and Oriental Negros. Earlier, the President in the course of his address before a mammoth crowd at the same club, announced the withdrawal of the marines and BCT troopers from the province. He, however, warned that if in spite of his decisions there will be no peace and order in Negros, he will be forced to send there even an entire army.

April 7:

The President arrived at the Manila International Airport about 11 a.m. on board the PAF plane *Pagasa*, following a four-day inspection trip to Romblon, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental. After a brief conference with some cabinet members who met him at the airport, the President motored to Malacañan.

Malacañan announced the suspension of Mayor Jose B. Madriaga and four policemen of Rosario, La Union, pending criminal charges filed against them in the court of first instance of that province. The Mayor was charged with serious physical injuries while the policemen, including the mayor, were charged with arbitrary detention. The vice-mayor of Rosario was instructed to act in place of the suspended mayor.

April 8:

At the ceremonies marking the presentation of credentials of the first Indian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Philippines, Mirza Rashid Baig, the President said "the countries of Asia demand today, more than ever before, the closest understanding and utmost cooperation among themselves, in order to ensure the preservation of their hard-won freedom." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 1292, for full text of the President's and the Indian Minister's messages.)

During the cabinet meeting, the President signed new nominations for confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. He named former Secretary of Agriculture Mariano Garchitorena as member of the board of directors of the National Rice and Corn Corporation, vice Jose Soriano, resigned; Mrs. Socorro A. Soriano as member of the board of review pictures, for another term of three years; and Undersecretary Jose as

acting part-time member of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. The President also issued an executive order fixing the ceiling price for imported poultry.

In the afternoon, the President formally installed Dr. Vidal A. Tan as seventh president of the University of the Philippines during its 38th commencement exercises on the university campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

House Bill No. 1964 creating the new municipality of Mallig, Isabela, was signed by the President before a 40-man farmer delegation from, the newly created municipality headed by Representative Samuel R. Reyes, author of the bill.

April 10:

By direction of the President, Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque suspended Crisostomo Silo of the Albay provincial board accused of usurpation of authority or official functions in an information filed against him by Assistant Provincial Fiscal Jose S. Sierra with the court of first instance of Albay.

The President made a surprise visit to Bolinao, Pangasinan, in the afternoon on his way to Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union, where he spent the Holy Week. He left Manila on board the presidential yacht *Apo* at 10 p.m. the previous day, accompanied by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Pasay City Mayor Primitivo Lovina.

April 11:

In the course of his luncheon conference with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay at the Philippine Navy rest house in Poro Point, La Union, the President approved the transfer to the Armed Forces of the Philippines of the 1,000-bed U. S. Army hospital at Fort Wm. McKinley to be turned over to the Philippine Government by the U. S. Government.

The President congratulated the Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially elements of the 12th BCT, for the capture of William Pomeroy, an American Huk. Secretary Magsaysay, who left by plane immediately after luncheon to be back at the scene of the biggest military operations against the Huks, sent the news of Pomeroy's capture in a radio dispatch received after 5 o'clock the same afternoon.

April 13:

Malacañan announced the suspension of six municipal officials, two elective and four appointive, for moral turpitude. The suspended officials were Municipal Mayor Marcial M. Punsalan, Chief of Police Romeo Baldeo, Policemen Pedro Villanueva, Aurelio Mangubat, and Florencio Dimaculangan, all of Tiaong, Quezon province; and City Councilor Leroy S. Brown of Basilan City. The Tiaong officials have been accused in court of maltreatment with physical injuries in three separate criminal cases, and the Basilan councilor, with grave defamation.

April 14:

The President landed at the Manila International Airport at 11: 35 a.m. aboard the PAF plane *Pagasa* after an hour's trip from the Poro naval base in San Fernando, La Union, where he had spent the Holy Week. Just before leaving Poro, the President conferred with Secretary Magsaysay on the progress of the current drive against the Huks. The Chief Executive was highly satisfied with the operation "Four Roses" and extended his congratulations to the gallantry of the men in the field.

At a memorial service held at the House of Representatives' session hall at 5 o'clock in the afternoon under the auspices of the Friends of Roxas, the President extolled the leadership of the man he succeeded as President of the Philippines as "a leadership of action." The President declared, "Roxas will go down in our history not only as the founder of our contemporary Philippine Republic but also as the emancipator of those policies which envision the

development of an economically stable Philippines The greatest tribute that we can pay Manuel A. Roxas," he said, "is to understand one another and be loyal to one another."

April 15:

In his 42nd monthly radio chat, the President again assailed the critics of the administration who would "destroy or help destroy" the common "edifice from pure whim, despondency, or bitter desperation" and enjoined the people to cooperate in resisting the enemy of the country's freedom. He declared, "We are speedily building for our economic stability, for our external as well as internal security, and we cannot afford to have our attention distracted and dissipated while we grapple with our problems of preparedness and security." The President called on "those who could not help or refuse to help for reasons of their own" to leave alone the people at work on the national edifice and not destroy that edifice" simply because they do not like the present architects."

The Council of State created a five-man committee to study the fusion into one unit of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) as proposed by Speaker Perez. Following the preliminary discussion of this proposal the five-man body was created with the following members: Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo, Defense Secretary Magsaysay, Senate President Protempore Esteban R. Abada, Representative Ramon Arnaldo, and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven.

The President signed House Bill No. 1126 which became Republic Act No. 679, regulating the employment of women and children. Any violation of any provision of this Act should be punished by a fine of not less than P100 or more than P5,000 or by imprisonment of not less than 30 days or more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

April 16:

The President submitted to the Senate for its concurrence three documents, namely, an air transport agreement with Spain, a treaty of friendship with Indonesia, and a protocol affecting the suppression of obscene publications. The air agreement with Spain entered into at Madrid on October 6, 1951, is designed "to stimulate and develop air transport services between the Philippines and Spain." The treaty of friendship with Indonesia entered into and signed at Djakarta on June 21, 1951, aims to strengthen and perpetuate the friendly relations "so happily existing between the two countries." The third document, a protocol to amend the convention for the suppression of the circulation of and traffic in obscene publications, was concluded at Geneva on September 12, 1923, and the annex thereto was signed at Lake Success, New York, on November 12, 1947.

The appointments of Petronilo Vallejo as Acting Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals of Rizal and Jose Villaruel as member of the Board of Assessment Appeals of Laguna were forwarded by the President to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Malacañan announced the release of P170,000 for the repair of water supply systems in seven provinces as recommended by the Department of Public Works and Communications. The fund will be distributed as follows: Bataan, P15,000; Batanes, P10,000; Batangas, P60,000; Cotabato, P20,000; Davao, P10,000; Isabela, P15,000; and Quezon, P40,000.

April 17:

In the course of his surprise visit to Tilik, Lubang Island, off northern Mindoro, the President before a group of barrio people reiterated that he would continue to "implement my economic development program which is not to make the rich richer but to make the poor live better." The President said he came purposely to Lubang because on that the fifth anniversary of his assumption of the presidency, he would like to continue fulfilling his policy of "bringing the Government closer to the people." The yacht Apo carrying the President arrived in Lubang at 11: 20 a.m. The presidential yacht returned to Manila at 8.30 p.m. but the President did not spent his evening aboard the yacht.

The President recommended to both Houses of Congress the passage of a joint resolution formally terminating, for domestic purposes, the state of war with Germany as of July 9, 1951, without prejudice to the conclusion of a formal peace settlement.

Malacañan announced that the President had accepted the resignation of FEU President Teodoro Evangelista as member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines and as member of the Board of Textbooks. Evangelista previously had tendered his resignation as Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education when he was elected President of the Far Eastern University, effective April 1, 1952.

April 18:

The President congratulated Senator Camilo Osias on his election the previous day as President of the Senate. In his message of congratulation the President said that Osias, in accepting the challenge for constructive legislation for the best interest of the people, had “demonstrated unusual and manly courage and you deserve the highest commendation and respect.”

Malacañan announced the suspension from office of Mayor Isidro Kintanar of Argao, Cebu, pending the final decision on the criminal case against him for falsification of public documents. The suspension order was sent by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to Mayor Kintanar through Governor Sergio Osmeha, Jr. of Cebu.

April 19:

A full-length report on the controversial fixed *llave* race held at the Philippine Racing Club on April 5 under the sponsorship of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society was received at Malacañan from the Games and Amusement Board which had investigated the anomaly. The GAB in its report acquitted itself of any responsibility in the irregularity, and at the same time justified the penalties meted out to the erring jockeys and three members of the board of stewards who had management of the race in question.

April 20:

For the fourth day the President stayed aboard the yacht *Apo* anchored in Manila Bay. Shortly before eleven o'clock, the President received on board Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila who called to consult him on matters concerning city administration.

The President stayed the ejection of hundred of families squatting on government land on Harrison Park who had been given up to April 20, to move their homes to Bago-Bantay, Quezon City. The President's decision was radioed from the presidential yacht *Apo* to Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who immediately transmitted it by telephone to Mayor Lacson. The Chief Executive countermanded an earlier directive to the Manila Mayor regarding squatters on city property because, according to the report of Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez, Bago-Bantay was not yet ready for occupancy by the squatters.

April 21:

Malacañan urged the speedy investigation of Vice Mayor Juan Navarro of Bongabon, Mindoro Oriental, charged with the murder of Ramon Camacho of the same municipality. The Malacañan action urging the Secretary of Justice to take immediate action on Navarro's case was prompted by a communication from the wife of the victim who alleged that her husband had been killed by Navarro for political motive.

The President approved the release of P70,000 allotted in special budget of the Bureau of Public Works for the construction of a wharf in Nasugbu, Batangas.

April 22:

In the morning, the President left the yacht *Apo* and paid a surprise visit to the Bureau of Posts building where he saw 35,000 mailbags awaiting disposal owing to the laying off of some 400 employees in the Manila Post Office. During his visit, the President ordered a more rigid screening of communist propaganda coming in through the mails.

At the cabinet meeting in the afternoon, the President assigned 300 employees from his various executive departments to the Bureau of Posts to clear the backlog of undelivered letters in that office. The employees to be assigned temporarily to the Bureau of Posts will be drawn from the following departments: Army, 100 soldiers; Philippine Charity Sweepstakes, 30; PRISCO, 30; Social Welfare Administration, 25; Department of Education, 30; and Department of Agriculture, 30.

On recommendation of Secretary of Education Cecilio Putong seconded by the chairman of the Import Control Commission, the Cabinet suspended the ban on the importation of textbooks from elementary and high schools for a period of one year. The ban on textbooks takes effect on June 30, 1953, but with the Cabinet decision, the suspension is extended to June 30, 1954.

In simple ceremonies held at Malacañan in the morning, the President inducted into office Dr. Cecilio Putong as Secretary of Education and Alejo Labrador as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The President told Dr. Putong, "I have appointed you as secretary, not because of the strong and almost irresistible pressure exerted on me by your influential friends nor because you were the highest ranking man in the Department of Education. I have appointed you because I sincerely believe you deserve the appointment."

April 23:

The President lashed out at those who call the Philippines a "banana republic" when he spoke at the golden jubilee of the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Fiber Inspection Service (formerly Bureau of Agriculture) on San Andres Street. The President said every Filipino should not underestimate the important role this country now plays in world affairs. "He should be proud that in this part of the world, the Philippines is looked upon and highly respected as a leader in democracy, rich in potentialities and aggressive in its economic development," the President added.

The President inducted Jose M. Kalaw as mayor of Lipa City before some 130 Batangueños who converged on Malacañan to witness the event. In an extemporaneous speech, the President told the large Batangas delegation that despite the fact that Batangas is oppositionist, he had not weakened his attachment to the people of Batangas.

April 24:

The President signed House Bill No. 1457, creating the Bureau of Agricultural Extension. In his remarks after signing the bill in the presence of Dr. Roland R. Renne, chief of the Mutual Security Administration in the Philippines, and Chairman Jose Yulo of the PHILCUSA, the President said that there is need for the creation of the new office "in order that we may be able to attend especially to the needs of the people in the outlying districts . . . and provide them with the information and technical knowledge so that they can intelligently develop their agricultural possibilities."

The President received the preliminary report of the National Economic Council, the highest economic advisory body of the government, on its studies on the proposed revision of the executive agreement between the United States and the Philippines under the Bell Trade Act, to remove its reportedly onerous provisions. The following revisions of the agreement are proposed in the preliminary report: (1) Elimination of the free trade provisions, which would be changed with a selected free trade agreement; (2) Removal of the parity provision, which gives Filipinos and Americans equal opportunities in the exploitation of the country's natural resources; (3) Changes in the prohibition against the imposition of export taxes on articles for export to the United States; and (4) Changes in the provision which limits the power of the Philippine government to control and administer the nation's currency.

The President sailed before midnight for Calapan, Mindoro Oriental, on the first leg of an inspection tour of the Mindoro provinces and Marinduque. He sailed aboard the presidential yacht Apo. The President's trip was an implementation of the administration's program of bringing the government closer to the people.

April 25:

On arrival at Calapan, Mindoro Oriental, at 8 a.m., the President received a rousing welcome. A colorful fluvial parade met the yacht Apo as it entered the harbor. The presidential party was greeted with brass bands, fireworks, and a bevy of local beauties as it landed on the wharf. The President was whisked in a motorcade to the town church for a *Te Deum*. Then he proceeded to the plaza where he addressed a large crowd. He made a strong plea to the people to forget regional and party differences so that they could build together a nation strong enough to resist invasion. From Nauhan, the party went to Pola, accompanied by Representative Raul Leuterio and Governor Francisco Infantado. In a brief address delivered at the town plaza, the President said, "The government should pay attention not only to big towns but also to small towns so that every community in the archipelago, big and small, could contribute its share to the national program of action."

Malacañan announced the creation of a 15-man bipartisan committee to study and advise the President on the proposed revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. The executive order embodying the organization of the committee was signed by the President before boarding the yacht Apo for the Mindoro provinces and Marinduque. The committee is composed of Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, chairman, and the following members: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Joaquin M. Elizalde; Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, Vicente Madrigal, and Francisco Delgado; Representatives Diosdado Macapagal, Daniel Romualdez, and Estanislao Fernandez; Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Salvador Araneta, Dean Conrado Benitez, Professor Vicente G. Cinco, Antonio de las Alas, and Jose P. Marcelo.

Also signed before the President left on his inspection trip was a message to both chambers of Congress recommending the enactment of a law appropriating an initial P3 million to provide airports with medical, fire-fighting equipment, and other facilities to minimize fatalities from mishaps in airports throughout the country. Aside from the initial appropriation of P3 million for the acquisition, construction and maintenance, and operation of the airport facilities, the President included in his recommendation an annual appropriation of P800,000. The President's action was prompted by the findings of a probe committee which delved into the Baguio plane crash last March 30, in which ten persons were killed and several were seriously injured.

April 26:

The yacht Apo left Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, at 7 a.m. and arrived at Boac, Marinduque, at 9:30 same morning. All municipal mayors of the province headed by Governor Felix Fidel Paz and Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez riding in a landing barge, met the presidential yacht in Laylay Bay. The President was cheered all the way from Boac, Mogpog, and Santa Cruz. Arriving at 12:30 p.m. in Santa Cruz, the President immediately addressed a big crowd at the public plaza. The people received with cheers the President's announcement that his trip was to enable him to learn firsthand what the people in the province needed. In addressing a crowd at Mogpog where he made a brief stop-over, the President said the enthusiastic receptions he had received in all towns he had visited gave him encouragement and strength to bear the burdens of state with serenity and calmness.

The President received the most unique reception in his entire public career upon his arrival at Gasan, Marinduque, hometown of Mrs. Asuncion A. Perez. The President was offered a crown and a scepter instead of the usual leis and garland, and he was proclaimed "King of Gasan" before a large cheering crowd gathered at the town's elementary school grounds. Local folks called the offering *putong*, an old custom reserved for visitors whom they love and respect. The President told his enthusiastic Welcomers,

"Never in my whole public career had I felt so enchanted than this evening because for the first time in my life I have been crowned king."

Malacañan announced that the President had authorized the release of P3 million from the funds allocated to the Ambuklao project to cover certain allotments in a supplemental budget of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plant projects. The temporary use of the P3 million from the funds of the Ambuklao projects was authorized by the President to speed up construction work at the Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plants in Mindanao.

April 27:

At a public rally in San Jose, Mindoro Occidental, the President said he is not running for re-election in 1953 as his present major plan is to govern the Philippines "properly during my incumbency." The President made this statement in answer to the introductory remarks of Occidental Mindoro Governor Federico Castillo who virtually launched the President's candidacy for re-election in 1953 before Mindoro officials and townspeople at the Balalaika Club.

Malacañan handed down the ruling that the appointment of the chief of police and members of the police force will not have to be made by the major with the consent of the municipal council, even in municipalities in specially organized provinces. Acting Executive Secretary Roque who handed down the ruling said that inasmuch as Commonwealth Act No. 343 expressly provides that "all local police bodies shall be reorganized without any saving clause as regards the specially organized provinces, it is clear that this law is intended to apply not only to the regularly organized provinces, but also to the specially organized provinces.

Before a big crowd on the occasion of the formal opening of the rehabilitated and improved San Jose airport in Mindoro Occidental, the President announced his decision to approve PAL's ambitious program to expand its international airlines so that PAL plane will encircle the globe. PAL's expansion program was indorsed favorably by the special committee of the Council of State. The President was royally received by almost the whole townspeople upon arrival in San Jose at 10 a.m.

April 28:

The President arrived in Mamburao at 9:30 a.m. following a 7-hour voyage from San Jose. The presidential yacht had sailed from Mamburao after midnight the previous day. The presidential party was met at the seashore by a large delegation from the provincial capital and nearby towns headed by their respective municipal officials. After hearing the *Te Deum* at the town's church, the party proceeded to the elementary school where the President addressed a public rally and conferred with local officials. The President advised the people of Mindoro Occidental not to take the law into their hands in resolving certain land disputes obtaining in that youngest province of the Republic. In his conference with provincial and municipal officials at the elementary school, the President instructed local officials to explain to farmers concerned in the controversies the legal issues involved in their disputes and to urge the farmers to enforce their rights through the courts and other duly constituted authorities of the government.

At 3 p.m. the presidential party returned to the yacht and proceeded to Paluan, the next coastal town. The President went ashore a few hours to see the town and then resumed the return voyage to Manila.

Malacañan announced the President's acceptance of Dr. Jose Soriano's resignation from the NARIC board of directors for reasons of failing health. Malacañan also denied the request of a government employee in the Office of the City Mayor of Cebu City to engage in the business of operating passenger jeeps. Acting Executive Secretary Roque in denying the request cited Executive Order No. 103, series of- 1913, which provides: "No employee will be allowed to take any part in the management of any business or engage in outside clerical or sedentary employment or any profession or employment which would bring him into competition with professional or business men."

Meeting with his cabinet shortly upon arrival from his inspection trip, the President took immediate steps to meet the problems of the Provinces of Mindoro and Marinduque which he found in his tour of those places. The President requested Vice-President Fernando Lopez to have the vast tracts of idle public lands in Mindoro released for settlement by thousands immigrants in Mindoro waiting for these lands to be released for settlement and cultivation. The problem of rats in San Jose, Mindoro Occidental, was also taken up. The President likewise instructed Acting

Health Secretary Regino Padua to intensify the malaria control campaign in Mindoro, as the disease has been hampering the settlement of the island.

The President received at the Malacañan social hall some 500 labor representatives representing 1,000 labor unions throughout the Archipelago—from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao who called to express their support of the policies of the administration. Accompanied by Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, these labor representatives called on the President to present a testimonial of loyalty and gratitude to the Chief Executive and endorse the move, for his reelection. In a brief talk, the President expressed thanks for labor's support of his policies. He was silent on the move to draft him for re-election.

Speaking in the evening at the inauguration of the P7 million Marcelo Steel plant at Punta, Santa Ana, the President appealed to the rich to invest their wealth in the industrial development of the country and thus provide opportunities for better living to the less privileged. The Chief Executive lauded the pioneering spirit of Jose P. Marcelo, owner of the steel plant, and made a dig at capitalists whom he called *seguristas*. He pointed out that if the capitalists opened up more opportunities for the poor, there would be industrial peace and the inroad of communism would be checked.

Meanwhile, Malacañan released the President's labor day message which is published in full on page 1296, *Historical Papers and Documents*.

April 30:

The President, who was guest speaker at the Manila Hotel banquet which ushered in this year's Labor Day festivities, appealed for better understanding between labor and management, saying it was the only basis for lasting industrial peace. The President said no amount of legislation could bring about industrial peace so necessary in the economic development of the country unless labor-management relations are based on a feeling of partnership, mutual tolerance, and understanding. (See *full text of speech* pages 1297-1304.)

From the yacht *Apo* anchored in Manila Bay, the President sent his congratulations to Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. on his elevation to the senate presidency. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 1296, for full text of the congratulatory message.

The unallocated balance of NASSCO's P15 million allocation which amounted to P1,177,600 was released by the President to enable the corporation 'to purchase all the necessary materials and supplies, and meet labor requirements for the completion of the government's shipyard project in Mariveles.

Malacañan announced the award of the Philippine Legion of Honor to eight members of the JUSMAG Airborne Instruction team "for meritorious and outstanding services to the Armed Forces of the Philippines." Major Congdon Curts of Philipsburg, Montana, and Major William K. Clarks of Convington, Kentucky, would be awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Officer). Enlisted men recommended for the Philippine Legion of Honor (Legionnaire) are: SFC Kenneth I. Withey of Lynxville, Wisconsin; Sgt. Henry E. Ambrose of Savannah, Georgia; Sgt. Ralph E. Haukins of Hannival, Missouri; Cpl. James N. McElroy of Rienzi, Mississippi; Cpl. Oscar Johnson, Jr. of Waterloo, Iowa; and Cpl. John A. Renninger of Minersville, Pennsylvania.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: May, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

May 1:

The President administered the oath of office to Pablo Lorenzo as Secretary of Public Works and Communications aboard the presidential yacht Apo. Secretary Lorenzo will continue to perform the functions of head of economic coordination until the President has chosen his successor. Lorenzo relinquished his post as chairman of the board of directors of the NARIC to which position Judge Servillano de la Cruz was designated in an acting capacity.

After inducting Secretary Lorenzo into office, the President motored to Quezon City where he spent fully two hours sweating in the scorching noon sun as he cut the ribbon at the Quirino Labor General Hospital nearing completion, visited the low-cost housing projects in the Quirino and the Roxas districts, and inspected the Bago Bantay site occupied by former squatters in Manila slums.

At past 3 p.m., Labor Secretary Jose Figueras fetched the President and his daughter Vicky to review the Labor Day parade at the grandstand in front of the Legislative Building. After the parade which lasted about two hours, Vicky cut the ribbon at the opening of the Labor Festival City.

May 2:

An important conference was held in Malacañan by the President with Admiral Arthur Radford, commander-in-chief of the U. S. Pacific Fleet in the Far East; Admiral Sir Guy Russel, commander-in-chief of the British Fleet in the Far East; and Vice Admiral P. Ortoli, commander-in-chief of the French Fleet in the Far East. The three allied commanders were accompanied by the diplomatic representatives of their respective countries in the Philippines. With the President at the conference was Secretary of Foreign Affairs Joaquin M. Elizalde. No announcement was made by Malacañan regarding the details of the talks, but it was presumed the allied commanders informed President Quirino of the nature of their conferences which had been going on at Sangley Point. It was believed that the admirals discussed with the President the broad question of naval defenses of the Orient. After the conference with the admirals, the President gave a luncheon in honor of the visiting naval commanders.

May 3:

The President, in an administrative order made effective as of December 14, 1948, ordered the removal from office of Epifanio R. Tupas, justice of the peace of Sagay, Negros Occidental, who had been found guilty of neglect of official duties, serious misconduct, and vindictiveness. All charges were investigated by the district judge who with the Undersecretary of Justice recommended Tupas' separation from the service. The ousted official had been suspended from office since December 14, 1948.

May 4:

The committee on settlement of refugees from Camiguin Island recommended to the President that the refugees be settled in a barrio between the municipal district of Claveria and the town of Balingasag in Misamis Oriental. The proposed site for the victims of Hibok Hibok comprises an area of approximately 3,500 hectares. It will cost the government approximately ₱500,000 to clear the land, put up the roads, and transfer the refugees from Camiguin to this settlement, according to the committee report. Among the recommendations of the committee, which is headed by Vice-President Fernando Lopez, is for the EDCOR of the Armed Forces to undertake the whole task of clearing the lands, building the roads and houses, and transporting the settlers. The committee feels that the EDCOR has men and the know-how judging by its success in the Kapatagan and Buldon projects.

Malacañan ruled that a city council or board, like other legislative bodies, is inherently empowered to create committees to study proposed ordinances, resolutions, and other matters pending before it. By authority of the

President, Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, disapproved and declared as without force and effect the action of the Ormoc City Mayor vetoing twice a municipal board resolution creating a committee on reorganization. In another case, the Ormoc city councilors were likewise upheld in the appointment of Ramon Bantasan as secretary of the board, vice Jose P. Codilla, the mayor's appointee. A council resolution appointing Bantasan had been vetoed twice by the mayor.

In a brief speech delivered at the Agoo town plaza shortly before noon, the President impressed upon the people the necessity of girding themselves for any eventuality in view of the uncertain world situation. He urged the people to produce more and rally behind the government's total economic mobilization program designed to promote the economic stability of the nation. The President arrived at the hometown of his mother at 10 a.m. following a half hour motor trip from Poro Naval Base in San Fernando, La Union, where he had been resting since the previous day, May 3.

May 5:

The President signed a proclamation turning over to the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation the administration and control of the Sunken Garden in order to convert it into play grounds, parks, and A-1 golf course. The PAAF is given the entire area around Intramuros to administer so that it could clean and beautify it. The PAAF will also improve the golf links and make it attractive for tourists. It will coordinate its plans With the National Planning Commission.

May 6:

The Cabinet decided to recommend to Congress the extension for another year of the effectivity of the Export Control Law which expires on June 30, 1952. The Cabinet agreed on the necessity of continuing the control of exports so as to prevent the flow of strategic materials to countries behind the iron curtain.

The President administered the oath of office to Carlos Rivilla, former mayor of Pasay City, as member of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. The President arrived in Manila at 10:20 a.m. aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan* from the Poro refueling station in San Fernando, La Union. Immediately afterwards, the President presided over the regular cabinet meeting shortly after 12 noon.

In the evening, the President was presented with a gold medal and a citation for his contribution "to the advancement of the cause of democracy in this country and to the enduring partnership of the Philippine and American peoples in the furtherance of democratic ideals in Asia during the post-war era." The presentation was made by Andrew R. McKelvie, Commander of the Manila Post No. 1 of the American Legion, Philippine Department. In his remarks after receiving the award, the President pledged to give his all for the maintenance and defense of democracy and for the continuance of cordial, permanent relations between the United States and the Philippines. (See pp. 1728-1729, *Historical Papers and Documents*, for full text of the President's remarks and of the citation.)

May 7:

The President, delivering the only oration at the necrological services held at the grandstand at the Luneta in the morning in honor of 52 Filipino heroes who had died in Korea, extolled the deeds of the departed soldiers and exhorted the people to unite in the fight for the preservation of democracy, for which the heroes had given their lives. He warned that he felt the crisis facing the, world was coming to a head, and urged the people to fight together to keep faith with those who had died in Korea. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1729-1731, for full text of the oration.)

The President cabled his congratulations to Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo, Jr., on the Secretary's "unanimous election as President of the World Health Assembly." The President said that Salcedo's elevation to that high position is a "tacit recognition of your ability as a specialist in the field of health and medicine."

May 8:

Malacañan announced the appointment of former Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon as member of the Integrity Board, vice Justice Delfin Jaranilla. By an executive order signed by the President the IB is now composed of Justice Luis P. Torres, chairman; and Justice Mariano H. de Joya, Jose P. Bengzon, Pompeyo Diaz, and Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim, members. Dr. Jose de Jesus is the executive secretary of the board.

It was announced by Malacañan that the President had forwarded a message to Congress recommending the enactment of a bill authorizing the Chief Executive to transfer the title of Plaza Militar in Malate in favor of the United States, or the Director of Lands to issue a patent to Plaza Militar without the restrictions imposed by the Public Land Law.

Malacañan approved the release of funds for the river control projects in Pampanga and for the construction of roads. A lump sum appropriation of ₱280,000 “for the investigation, survey, construction, reconstruction, repair, and improvements of the Gumain-Porac-Canlaman control in Pampanga,” and ₱1,522,900 for the maintenance, improvement, or construction of inter-provincial and coast-to-coast roads subject to unusually heavy traffic were released.

The President left for Baguio about 10 a.m. aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan* for a four-day visit to the summer capital. He arrived at the Loakan airport at exactly 10:50 a. m. Upon arriving at the Guest House, the President went over a pile of pending state papers he brought along from Manila.

May 9:

The Cabinet met twice at the Mansion House, Baguio, the first session starting at 11 a.m. and the second, at 5 p.m. The Cabinet took steps during the morning session to halt the soaring price of locally produced cement and electrical wires. The Cabinet also took up preliminary discussion of ways and means of preventing the concentration of large tracts of public land in the hands of speculators in Mindanao who do not develop them. During the two long sessions of the Cabinet, the President signed:

1. Twenty-two bills passed by Congress during its current regular session.
2. An executive order reducing the price of locally produced cement at ₱3.30 a bag of 94 pounds, and of electric wires No. 14 at P35.90 wholesale per roll, or ₱.09 retail per feet.
3. The nomination of Capt. Jose M. Francisco of the Navy, as commodore, and of Ludovico Hidrosollo as governor of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.
4. A message to Congress certifying to the urgency of the approval of a house bill authorizing the President to use the loans of the National Government to the Manila Railroad Company in buying new shares of stock of the company.

May 10:

The President vetoed the bill granting a franchise to operate a radio station in Bacolod, Negros Occidental. This was the second bill vetoed by the President in Baguio, the first vetoed the previous day being an act creating the municipality of Dansalan in the Province of Davao.

May 11:

In his address before the convention of the Philippine Veterans League at noon at the Burnham Park auditorium, the President bluntly told the nation of the “very grave” international situation and called upon the people to contribute

their share in preparing the country for any eventuality. He specially addressed himself to the veterans to show once again their militant spirit in the struggle for national survival.

The President returned to Malacañan from Baguio at 12:30 p.m.

May 12:

The President enplaned for Capiz landing at Luctogan airfield in Roxas City at 10:15 a.m. He attended the first anniversary celebration of the city named after the late President Manuel Roxas. Following his induction of newly elected officials of the Capiz Mayor's League at noon, the President was presented with a resolution urging his candidacy and that of Vice-President Fernando Lopez for re-election in 1953. When asked by reporters at the press conference aboard the yacht *Apo* in the evening to clarify his point in his speech in Roxas City that evening that he was draftable for official nomination for 1953, the President said that if the administration can present good record of accomplishment and the people would like him to continue, then he would let the people decide.

May 13:

The President urged the people to cooperate with the administration to make "freedom substantive" in order to perpetuate democracy in the Philippines. He spoke before a large crowd which gathered at the town plaza of San Jose, Antique, upon his arrival there at 10 a.m. from Capiz aboard the yacht *Apo*. After spending the whole day in Antique, the President again took the boat for Iloilo.

May 14:

In a brief speech delivered before Iloilo provincial and municipal officials at Iloilo City's Casino Español, the President announced that his party would determine whether his services would still be required by the people beyond 1953. Questions like this, he pointed out, "do not usually belong to one individual for solution. They are the collective responsibility of his party. It is the Liberal Party therefore that must be consulted and must say the last word whether my services to the nation would be further required or not."

After the speech, the President had brief conferences with various local officials. He also administered the oath of office to Mrs. Marcelina M. Monton as vice mayor of Miagao, Iloilo. Following the ceremony, he proceeded in a long motorcade to the Manduriao airfield and boarded the presidential plane *Laong Laan* for return trip to Manila. The *Laong Laan* landed at the Nichols airbase at 11:15 a.m.

May 15:

Fears of rice crisis in the country were dispelled following a top-level conference held in Malacañan for the purpose of seeking means to meet the estimated 1952 rice shortage of 140,000 metric tons. Presided over by the President, the conference was attended by Vice-President Fernando Lopez; Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, in his capacity as chairman of the NEC; Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, as economic administrator; ICC Chairman Primitivo Lovina; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno; Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, as chairman of PRISCO; NARIC Manager Gabriel Belmonte; NARIC Chairman Mariano Garchitorena; and Counsellor of Economic Affairs Cesar Lanuza of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During the conference which lasted from 10 a.m. to about 11 a.m., it was disclosed that the NARIC had already been able to secure commitments for the supply of 95,000 tons and offers had been made by other entities, giving assurance to supply 30,000 tons more; so only 15,000 tons would be lacking to meet our estimated requirement of 140,000 metric tons. The MSA has offered its good offices to help the Government secure the rice to be purchased by the suppliers.

The Council of State endorsed House Bill No. 2934 which amends the Philippines Land Act reducing the area of public agricultural lands which individuals may acquire for settlement. The Council also decided to postpone action

on the proposal of the Philippine Airlines to expand its international services. This postponement would give the top men of the Philippine Senate, all Nacionalistas, time to study the PAL proposal. Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, President Protempore Manuel C. Briones, and Majority Floor Leader Camilo Osias, all Nacionalistas, attended for the first time a meeting of the Council of State at Malacañan.

The President signed the appointment of former Representative Jose Cojuangco of Tarlac as part-time governor of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. He also appointed Dr. Macario Naval, president of the Philippine Normal College, and Mrs. Pura Santillan Castrence of the cultural division of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as members of the Board on Textbooks.

In his 43rd monthly radio chat aircast from Malacañan at 7 p.m., the President warned of the possibility of another world armed conflict and urged the people to intensify national economic preparedness. He expressed confidence that the nation could meet the demands of any future emergency the way it had “survived previous rains and floods . . .” “But,” he warned, “we must not underestimate the force of impending violence which has been studiously, religiously, industriously building up strength for the one full sweep against human freedom.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1731-1734, for full text of the radio chat.)

May 16:

In the course of his conference with various provincial delegations which called at Malacañan, the President announced that he will not approve the creation of new provinces and municipalities unless it can be shown that the new subdivisions are financially capable of complying with the minimum wage law.

May 17:

The President conferred for two hours at Malacañan with the chairmen of the foreign affairs committees of both houses of Congress to inform them of the recent world developments, and to discuss the Japanese peace treaty. The advantages of prompt ratification of the treaty were explained by the President during the conference. Foreign Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde was present during the conference.

Malacañan announced the suspension of Assistant City Attorney Marcelo R. Peñaflor of Pasay City for “direct assault upon a person in authority.” Peñaflor was charged with having unlawfully and feloniously attacked and assaulted the then municipal judge, Fernando C. Villarosa, of Pasay City while the latter was in the performance of his duties.

May 18:

Malacañan announced the reappointment of Dr. Faustino Turla as a member of the Veterinary Examining Board for another term of three years expiring May 11, 1955, and the designation of Dr. Julian Pilares as acting member of the board of directors of the Philippines Charity Sweepstakes office.

The annual presidential reception and ball in honor of the legislators was held in Malacañan in the evening.

May 19:

The President received Jose Yulo, PHILCUSA Chairman, who handed personally his resignation in the face of hostility of certain members of Congress who were reportedly disinclined to approve the counterpart fund bill because of their dislike for the former Speaker. In his talk with newsmen, the President defended Yulo, saying that charges aired in Congress against him were unjust and unfair, and indicated that he might have to take charge of the PHILCUSA office if Yulo would be relieved of the job.

May 20:

At the meeting of the Cabinet the President directed the National Defense Department to restrict military flying to conserve aviation gas. The Cabinet also instructed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda in his capacity as head of the Civil Aeronautics Board to prohibit pleasure flying and to curtail the amount of gasoline available for commercial airlines to 65 per cent of their consumption from March 1952. The Cabinet took these steps following the receipt by the Department of Foreign Affairs of a communication from the U. S. Embassy informing the Philippine government of the need of conserving the present stock of aviation gas.

May 21:

In a speech at his conference with Congress leaders and the provincial and city executives at Malacañan, the President said that the country had been warned by the United States of an impending communist major offensive. After hearing the Chief Executive, Liberal governors and mayors came out openly for the retention by the President of his emergency powers. The President opened the emergency conference of provincial governors and city mayors at the Malacañan social hall at 9:30 in the morning. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1739-1746, for full text of the President's extemporaneous speech.)

During his conference with provincial governors and city mayors in the morning, the President issued proclamation under Republic Act No. 59 which declared the offices of governors and members of the provincial boards of Lanao, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Sulu, and Mountain Province to be elective when the President of the Philippines shall have ascertained and declared that the people of these provinces are ready to elect their own officials (See full text of the proclamation on 1688.) The President vetoed House Bill No. 1598 providing for the transmission free of charge of ordinary mail matter of patients in government leprosaria when addressed to their families in the Philippines.

May 22:

At the close of the conference of provincial governors and city mayors at 1:30 p.m., the provincial governors and city mayors belonging to the Nacionalista Party pledged their full support and cooperation to President Quirino in his campaign for national preparedness in view of the uncertain world situation. Speaking on behalf of his Nacionalista colleagues in the conference, Gov. Juan de G. Rodriguez of Pangasinan explained their stand, saying it was necessary for the preservation of the democratic way of life. Governor Rodriguez, who is president of the "Free Governors' League" composed of Nacionalistas, also offered the services of the league to the administration's peace and order campaign and its program of total economic mobilization.

In the presence of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, a large delegation of Army top brass and their ladies headed by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, American military officers headed by Maj. Gen. Albert Pierson (JUSMAG Chief), some senators and representatives, and provincial governors and city mayors then in conference in Malacañan, the President inducted Generals Jesus Vargas and Alfonso Arellano and Commodore Jose Francisco of the Navy. In his brief remarks following the induction, the President warned that the injection of politics into the ranks of the army might bring about its eventual demoralization and disintegration; so he instructed Army top brass to keep the Armed Forces from becoming a tool of politicians, "from the President down" in order to preserve the dignity and morale of the organization.

May 23:

The President reiterated his decision to place the issue of his reelection squarely in the hands of the Liberal Party at the meeting of the national directorate of the party in Malacañan Park. Amidst prolonged cheers and applause, the President announced that although he would have reached the pinnacle of his ambition after having served as head of the nation for six years, still he would not shirk from further responsibility if the party decide that the country still needed his services beyond 1953.

In his extemporaneous remarks at the meeting of the LP national directorate, the President confessed he spent a sleepless night after hearing a joint house-senate committee notification of the adjournment of the Congress session without being able to approve vital bills. "I realize now that I have assumed a great responsibility to the nation with the non-passage of the budget . . . , public works bill and other measures . . . implementing our program of national

action,” the President said, adding, “This realization has worried me very much.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1746-1751, for full text of the extemporaneous remarks of the President.)

Forty-seven provincial governors and mayors of chartered cities in conference in Manila signed a resolution in favor of the continuance of the emergency powers of the President. Signer of the resolution who included four Nacionalistas said that world conditions, especially in the Far East make it necessary that the President should continue to have emergency powers now vested by existing laws in order that the Government can take measures to meet any situation.

The President administered the oaths of office to former Rep. Jose Cojuangco of Tarlac and former Gov. Ludovico Hidrosollo of Capiz as part-time and full-time governors respectively of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. The President also suspended from office the mayor and the chief of police of Ibaan, Batangas. Mayor Juan T. Mercado and his co-accused Chief of Police Pepe Fortus were suspended because of criminal case No. 348 filed against them by the provincial fiscal of Batangas, accusing them of the murder of Juan Marino.

May 26:

Malacañan sustained a municipal ordinance of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, prohibiting the establishment, operation, and maintenance of public dancing schools and public dance halls in that town. Malacañan’s opinion was sought by the municipal council of Gapan after the provincial board of Nueva Ecija had disapproved the ordinance for being too sweeping and unreasonable.” According to Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, the controversial ordinance is clearly authorized by section 2243(1) of the Revised Administrative Code.

May 27:

The President gave a luncheon at the Malacañan Palace in honor of Paul Vories McNutt, former U. S. Ambassador to the Philippines. During the luncheon the Philippine Armed Forces awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) to the honoree for eminently meritorious and distinguished service to the Filipino people as American High Commissioner and later as Ambassador to the Philippines. The decoration was placed on McNutt by Mrs. Victoria Quirino-Gonzalez, the President’s daughter. In their extemporaneous speeches during the luncheon, the President and McNutt exchanged recollections on the Philippines of 1946. The President recalled the trials that faced the nation, pointing out that the Philippines once thought to be on the brink of being a dictatorship, now stands as a show-window of democracy in Asia. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1758-1761, for full texts of the extemporaneous speeches.)

The President signed an executive order organizing a certain portion of the municipality of Bato, Catanduanes, into an independent municipality under the name of San Miguel. The barrios of Mabato, Obo, Pagsagnahan, Patagan, Kilikilihan, San Juan Grande, San Miguel, Siay, and Solong were taken from the municipality of Bato and organized into the independent municipality of San Miguel. The seat of the newly created municipality will be in the former barrio of San Miguel.

The membership of the Integrity Board was completed by the President with the induction into office of former Justice Secretary Jose P. Bengzon. The Chief Executive also swore into office Rodolfo Sarenas as Mayor of Davao City and Alejandro Albert as Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

May 28:

The President had breakfast with Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Strickler at the Palace balcony overlooking the Pasig River. Then he received some congressmen and governors who consulted him on the affairs of their respective provinces. About 10:30 a.m., he motored to Nichols Airbase to take the presidential plane *Laong Laan* for Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union. Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, who saw the President off, received preliminary instructions on his projected trip to the United States.

May 29:

The President issued Executive Order No. 504, prohibiting the exportation or re-exportation of war materials, arms, ammunition, and other strategic materials and critical items from the Philippines except in certain cases. The new export control, defined in the executive order, was apparently intended to be a stop-gap measure which will operate until Congress could act on the matter of plugging holes in the shipment of war goods. The new export control order will enable the nation to hold on to its stockpile of strategic war materials and at the same time deny these materials to a potential enemy. (See page 1682, for full text of the executive order.)

May 30:

The President signed House Bill No. 1202, authorizing the Director of Public Libraries to collect, compile, and publish the speeches, messages, and other writings of the late President Manuel L. Quezon. Introduced by Representatives Virgilio Valera and Narciso Umali, the approved bill also authorizes the distribution of the compilations free of charge to all public libraries, government high schools, and colleges, and their sale to the general public at cost. The bill carries an appropriation of ₱50,000.

May 31:

The Cabinet decided against the sending of too many ECA pensionados to the United States in order to avoid much drain on the counterpart fund which could be utilized in the financing of more projects. The Cabinet also decided against the sending of Philippine delegates to international conferences unless absolutely necessary. Exception is made for those who are willing to defray their expenses at those conferences.

In an extemporaneous speech before the members of the Philippine Association of University Professors at Malacañan, the President challenged the professors to put across “the real meaning of democracy by helping the government show in concrete form the advantages of democracy.” The President said that the meaning of democracy has been abused and the only means to convince the people of the real significance of democracy is to show them the tangible results that democracy can bring for their benefit. He urged the professors to give their students the “correct impression of what democracy is.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1762, for full text of the speech.)

The President received from Congress a list of 165 bills passed by both chambers of the legislature, but not a single copy of these bills was so far received by the Chief Executive. The President had asked for the list of the bills passed by Congress to serve as basis in the consideration of the advisability of holding a special session.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Official Month in Review: June 1952

June 1:

Addressing some 500 members of the Philippine Home Economics Association at a tea he gave in their honor at Malacañan's ceremonial hall, the President lauded the position of Filipino women in the Philippines, and praised them for their role in helping solve the country's serious problems of state. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2159–2163, for full text of the extemporaneous speech.)

June 2:

The President visited the NASSCO compound at Mariveles, Bataan, accompanied by Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo; Sofronio Abrera, general manager of the government firm; Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal; and Commodore Jose M. Francisco, commander of the Navy. The Chief Executive stressed the necessity of completing the steel mills and shipyards by the target date, January of next year.

Malacañan ruled that municipal councils are empowered to create positions in the police force and to determine the necessity for such positions in their respective municipalities. The decision was issued by Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, by authority of the President, following an appeal from the municipal council of Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, which asked whether the provincial board may validly disapprove a municipal resolution of this nature. The provincial board of Negros Oriental had previously disapproved a Guihulngan municipal council resolution creating the position of a police lieutenant.

June 3:

The Cabinet approved the resolution of the 15–men committee recommending to the President that immediate steps be taken to start negotiations for the revision of the trade agreement between the United States and the Philippines. Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde was directed by the President during the Cabinet meeting to take the necessary steps preparatory to the start of the negotiations between the Philippines and the United States on the revision of the trade agreement.

For almost an hour, the President conferred with Speaker Perez in Malacañan. During the conference the Speaker denied what was published in the papers that he had refused to come to the Palace when the President desired to meet him. Perez said there was no rivalry between him and the President and that he was confident that intramural conflicts will be settled for the sake of party unity. The President conferred with Speaker Eugenio Perez on the calling of a special session of Congress, and at the same time discussed its agenda, which included: (1) the 1953 general appropriation measure, (2) the P132 million public works outlay, (3) the P33 million MSA counterpart fund, (4) civilian defense measures, (5) the extension of the export control law, (6) the extension of the exchange and corporate taxes, (7) the creation of the agrarian and industrial court, and (8) anti-graft measures, particularly the Senate bill forfeiting to the State wealth accumulated through graft or corruption.

The President administered the oath of office to Minister Proceso Sebastian as Philippine Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Indonesia. Sebastian filled the post vacated by former Ambassador Domingo Imperial who had been appointed chairman of the Commission on Elections.

June 4:

At the cabinet meeting, the President directed the LASEDECO and the EDCOR to hasten the land settlement program. Economic Coordinator Pablo Lorenzo was instructed to confine the activity of the LASEDECO to providing settlement to the increasing number of settlers, by giving up its so-called "administration farms" and "demonstration farms". The "administration farms" will be divided to provide lands to new settlers. The EDCOR was directed by the President to extend its program of land settlement in Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan, and Isabela

where there are extensive tracts of public lands available, to provide a show window for the Huks who are ready to return to the peaceful way of life.

The President also instructed the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid (PHILCUSA) to negotiate for the rehabilitation and construction of nine selected airfields throughout the country with the assistance of the Mutual Security Administration (MSA formerly ECA) for the purpose of national security as well as for economic and social advancement. Estimates submitted by the Department of National Defense placed the total expenditures to make the nine airports recommended by the department adequate for the operation of military and civilian aircraft at P83,462,314.

In the afternoon, the President addressed some 65 government auditors who called at Malacañan and asked them to help in ridding the government of graft and corruption. He urged the auditors to stop “those who help themselves instead of helping the government.” The Chief Executive deplored the fact that the courts in trying cases of graft often punish only erring officials but not the auditors who pre-audited irregular accounts. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2163–2165, for full text of the speech.)

June 5:

The President signed the bill organizing and strengthening the Philippine foreign service. The new law will in a great measure stabilize the foreign service as it would insure the merit system in the choice and promotion of foreign service officials. A career service corps will be created to be composed of foreign affairs officers appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. (See pp. 2113–2129, for full text of the bill.)

Another bill signed by the President was Senate Bill No. 338, making compulsory the instruction of Spanish in colleges and universities, both public and private. The new law requires all students to complete at least 12 units in Spanish before they may be allowed to graduate. Students who had taken an equal number of units in other foreign languages before the effectivity of this law are exempted from this requirement. The measure further provides that no collegiate courses will be offered by any college or university, public or private, without including Spanish in its curriculum. (The full text of the bill is on page 2129.)

The President also issued two proclamations reserving parcels of public domain in the Province of Davao for school and maternity sites. The public land served for school site is in the municipality of Padada and that reserved for a maternity clinic is in Davao City.

Malacañan announced that two awards will be given annually for meritorious services rendered in Philippine education. The awards are the Rizal Collegiate Palms and the Mabini Teachers Medal. The Rizal Collegiate Palms is to be awarded only to citizens engaged in the field of higher education, while the Mabini Teachers Medal will be awarded to teachers who have made exceptional contributions to secondary and elementary education. Annual awards will be limited to 18 medals, six of the Rizal Collegiate Palms and 12 of the Mabini Teachers Medal. Candidates for the annual awards will be carefully screened by a committee to be appointed by the President. The institution of the awards was recommended by the Philippines Heraldry Committee to the President who gave his approval.

June 6:

The President signed three tax measures and 14 other bills approved in the last regular session of Congress. Among the bills signed was House Bill No. 3144, now Republic Act No. 710, granting charter to the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, designed to assist the government in the development and promotion of the tourist industry in the Philippines; House Bill No. 2524 dividing the Province of Zamboanga into two legal entities; namely, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur. (For full texts of the newly signed bills, see pp. 2130–2134.)

The President appointed Solicitor General Pompeyo Diaz ad interim Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, and Judge Roberto A. Gianzon as Undersecretary of Justice. They took their oaths of office at the cabinet room early in the afternoon.

Malacañan also announced the appointments to the judiciary of the following: Juan R. Liwag, of the court of first instance of Albay, as ad interim Solicitor-General to succeed Justice Pompeyo Diaz; Judge Jesus Perez of the court of first instance of Bulacan, to succeed Undersecretary Roberto A. Guianzon; Iloilo Fiscal Jose Mendoza, as ad interim cadastral judge; and Cadastral Judge Jose Flores, as judge-at-large.

Immediately after the induction ceremonies in the afternoon, the Chief Executive presided over the meeting of the Cabinet and went over 180 bills passed by both Houses of Congress. The Cabinet went over each bill, and the President endorsed the bills to the corresponding departments concerned for comment and recommendation.

June 7:

Addressing a rally at the Pampanga High School quadrangle upon his arrival at San Fernando, Pampanga, at 10 a.m., the President expressed satisfaction in what he observed as the “spirit of unity, conciliation, and cooperation” with which he was greeted. He told the people of Pampanga to forget their petty political differences and buckle down to make this province prosperous. All the mayors of Pampanga, including high provincial officials, were present during the rally.

The President hurried back to Manila at 3:30 and went to the Manila International Airport at 5 o’clock to see his daughter Vicky and her husband off for the United States. He also bade good-bye to Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay and acting PIC Director Manuel J. Gonzalez who left for San Francisco together with Vicky on the same PAL plane.

At 6 o’clock, the President went to Balintawak for the inauguration ceremony of the Halili Brewery. He paid tribute to former Gov. Fortunato F. Halili for the latest addition to the Halili enterprise. In his speech the President lauded the Filipino businessman for “accelerating the establishment of our basic industries.” He said that with the aggressiveness and intelligence of the Filipino businessman, he is “emboldened to continue my program of total economic mobilization.”

June 8:

The President signed House Bill No. 1099 granting a franchise to the Eastern Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Ltd., to land, construct, maintain, and operate a submarine telegraph cable connecting Manila with Hongkong. The company will send telegraph messages by submarine cable from Manila to points exterior to the Philippines, and receive at Manila telegraph messages from such exterior points, by submarine cable.

June 9:

The President signed Executive Order No. 507, creating the barrio of Sta. Rita in Batangas, Batangas, including the adjoining portion of the municipality of Bauan, as subport of entry under Manila as the principal port of entry. He also signed Executive Order No. 508, authorizing the collection of voluntary contributions for the “Unang Sigaw” monument in Balintawak, and creating a committee for the purpose. “The Unang Sigaw” monument will be replaced by one in bronze and marble.

Before enplaning for Tagbilaran, Bohol, the President issued Proclamation No. 320, calling Congress to a six-day special session starting at 10 o’clock in the morning of June 23, 1952. Lined up for legislative consideration were ten important measures. (*See* pp. 2090–2091, for full text of the proclamation.)

Accompanied by Education Secretary Cecilio Putong, Representatives Marcos Calo and Simeon Toribio, and former Governor Jacinto Borja of Bohol, the President landed at Tagbilaran at 11 a. m., on the first leg of his trip to the

South. Speaking before the welcome rally at the Bohol athletic field at noon, the President explained that the retention of the emergency powers by him was necessary to insure national security, especially at this time when the situation the world over is unsettled. He announced for the first time that he would veto the bill passed during the last session of Congress repealing the emergency powers of the chief executive. The President said: "My friends, it is for us to brace up and employ all our energy, concentrate all our attention to preparing the nation for any eventuality. That is why I am going from province to province, to tell the people of the danger that is coming"

June 10:

In the course of a three-hour conference with some 3,000 provincial and municipal officials, including teachers of Bohol's 40 municipalities, the President assured that the redemption of the emergency notes would be resumed before the end of the current year. The President's statement was understood to apply to all guerrilla notes still unredeemed throughout the country. The conference was held at the Tagbilaran High School in the morning. The conference opened with a speech of the President acquainting local officials with the general policies of the administration, particularly with the program of economic mobilization.

After a brief rest on board the yacht *Apo* in the afternoon, the President motored to Barrio Bool, some five kilometers inland, where he visited and marked the commemorative spot where Sikatuna and Legaspi had the Blood Compact. The *Apo* pulled out of Tagbilaran at 10 p.m. for Surigao.

June 11:

The President received a royal reception upon his arrival at Surigao at 9:30 a.m. following an overnight voyage from Tagbilaran aboard the yacht *Apo*. A fluvial parade, formed by a long line of gaily-decorated motor boats and launches, met the presidential yacht at Surigao Bay and escorted it to the town wharf. A delegation of provincial and municipal officials headed by Governor Fernando C. Salvosa boarded the yacht at the bay and conferred with the President as the yacht cruised at a slow speed. A welcoming crowd led by Senator Felisberto M. Verano met the Presidential party at the wharf. The President proceeded to the town at the head of another colorful parade, and addressed a welcome rally at the town plaza. In the afternoon, the President conferred with national, provincial, and municipal officials at the provincial capitol.

In an inspired speech before the welcome rally at the Surigao town plaza, the President expressed his determination to hasten the development of Mindanao and to keep the rich island from being grabbed by scheming people. The President said that with the millions of pesos of investment for the exploitation of Mindanao's rich natural resources, the island is fast being transformed from the "land of promise" into an "empire of wealth . . ." The President told the crowd of 20,000 who listened to him for the two hours under the heat of the noonday sun: "Please forget political discussions while I am here because my mission is economics, not politics. My concern here now is to find out whether this province has any latent economic potentialities which could be included in the national program of industrial expansion and agricultural development."

June 12:

The President, on the third leg of his nine-day tour of eastern Mindanao, arrived in Butuan City about 10:30 a.m. from Surigao. The President was received at the wharf by one of the biggest crowds ever gathered in Butuan.

In his speech at the Guingona Park before thousands gathered there for the welcome rally, the President lashed out at critics of the national development program, who are envious because the government has been able to show tangible results of the work of the administration. The President said that we are no longer groping in the dark and that we have found our way for our permanent security and the enduring existence of our Republic. He said Mindanao will bear the first fruits of the national program of action. The President told the people of Agusan that 80 per cent of the initial amount of \$47 million for development program under the Mutual Security Agency will be channeled to Mindanao. Among tangible results of the economic mobilization program of the administration cited by the Chief Executive, are the Maria Cristina hydroelectric power plant, the proposed steel mill at Iligan, and the fertilizer plant which will soon be completed either at the end of this year or early in 1953.

The President left a reception in Butuan about 11 in the evening to address a meeting of the people of Nasipit some 20 kilometers from the Agusan capital. He explained to the people of Nasipit his program for the development of Mindanao, and congratulated the people of that town for faring better than most people in Luzon because of the lumber and copra industries which furnish them work.

June 13:

The President left Nasipit at 3 a.m. where he boarded the yacht *Apo* for Cagayan de Oro City. Upon arrival at Cagayan de Oro at 10:30 a.m., the President was met at the wharf by the enthusiastic cheers of a crowd of 20,000 people. The President was directly led to a platform erected at the end of the wharf to address the cheering welcomers. The President trained his guns on the defenders of the members of the Politburo who, he said, will soon realize their mistake for securing the freedom of arrested Communists to enable them to escape to the mountains. Without mentioning names, he levelled his attacks against so-called "patriots" who are protecting Communists. There may come a time, the Chief Executive said, when they may have to be marked as enemies of freedom and the Filipino people.

The president wound up his tour of the northeastern Mindanao provinces, speaking in Cagayan de Oro before provincial, city, and town officials who came to see him. He suggested to them to urge their congressmen to appropriate a lump sum appropriation from which the President could get funds to meet their requests for money to build some of their municipal buildings, water systems, and other projects.

June 14:

In a conference aboard the yacht *Apo* moored at the Cagayan de Oro wharf, the President counselled the Lanao officials to set aside their personal differences and keep the province peaceful so as not to scare away people going there to help make the province prosperous. He said Lanao would become the premier industrial province in Mindanao following completion of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric power plant, the fertilizer plant, and the proposed steel mill in Iligan.

A large delegation of Lanao officials who had motored some 300 kilometers from Dansalan, called on the President to present to him the pressing problems of the province. Among the important matters presented was the current personal enmity between Lanao Governor Datu Mandangan Dimacuta and Dansalan City Mayor Sultan Bato Ali, both Liberals. It was feared that unless their bitter personal differences are settled on time, violent clashes between their followers may ensue and endanger the peace in the province.

The President motored to the airport about 11 a.m. to board the presidential plane *Laong Laan* for Del Monte, Bukidnon. The presidential party took off at 11:30 a.m. and arrived Del Monte 15 minutes later.

June 15:

The President returned to the House of Representatives without his signature House Bill No. 727, entitled "An Act Repealing All Laws Granting Emergency Powers to the President of the Philippines," because he said, it would "render the nation helpless and insecure." In his veto message to Congress, the President reiterated a previous recommendation that the law making body pass a bill granting him specific and limited emergency powers. (See pp. 2165–2167, for full text of the President's veto message.)

In his 44th monthly radio chat tape recorded at one o'clock in the afternoon at Del Monte, Bukidnon, the President substantially repeated his message to Congress in explaining his disapproval of the Zosa bill repealing his emergency powers. The chat and the veto message differed only in their introductory paragraphs. The remaining portions were practically the same. "I think you are entitled to know the reason why I have so acted," the President said in his radio chat. "It is primarily for your protection and security." He invited attention to the critical world conditions which he said were the aftermath of the last war and of the fact that the Japanese peace-treaty had not been ratified. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2167–2169, for full text of the radio chat.)

June 16:

Because of unfavorable flying conditions at the pineapple plantation at Del Monte, the President had to go down by car in the morning, arriving at Cagayan de Oro wharf shortly after 12 noon. The presidential yacht *Apo* bearing the President and his party pulled out of Cagayan de Oro about 2 p.m. The President decided to take the longer sea trip to Manila in order to have more time to study a fresh bunch of bills submitted to him by Congress and flown to him at Del Monte early in the morning.

June 17:

The President was warmly received upon his arrival at Bantayan Island at 8:30 a.m., with a fluvial parade and the customary brass band and fireworks display. On hand at the wharf to give the President a rousing welcome was a large crowd headed by Cebu Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

Addressing the welcome rally from the balcony of the Bantayan municipal building, the President said that it would be more in keeping with the nation's spirit of construction if the people set aside politics for the time being and take up with him ways and means of increasing production of their respective localities. He told the people of Bantayan he would much prefer to have provincial delegations calling on him at Malacañan talk to him about economics rather than about politics.

Sparked by Governor Osmeña's speech at the public plaza in Bantayan at noon, the President directed Vice-Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Jesus Vargas to call an immediate conference of top brass of the constabulary and the navy who were with the presidential party, to bolster the campaign against dynamite fishing in the Visayas. Governor Osmeña had proposed a coordinate and cooperative action among the governors of Batangas, Masbate, and Cebu in an effort to exterminate dynamite fishing which has caused a drop in the fish supply in Cebu waters. The series of conferences started immediately aboard the yacht *Apo*. Those who attended the initial meeting were Gen. Vargas, Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Col. Ramon Enriquez, commander of the third military area covering the entire Visayas, and several deputies. The meeting was attended by Governor Osmeña.

Malacañan announced the designation of Dean Belen Enrile Gutierrez of FEU as acting member of the Integrity Board during the absence of Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim who is leaving for abroad.

Upon the request of the city auditor of Bacolod City, in an opinion handed down by Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, Malacañan ruled that the absence of a mayor who is on an official business outside the municipality "is neither an effective absence nor involves temporary incapacity so as to warrant the assumption of the vice-mayor of the duties of the mayor." Secretary Roque said that Vice-Mayor Villanueva was not the acting mayor, and his actuation in designating a city councilor as acting mayor was not in order.

June 18:

The President returned at 4 p.m., on the presidential yacht *Apo* from a nine-day tour of inspection of Visayan and Mindanao provinces. He brought with him 27 bills he had signed into law and seven he had vetoed in the morning on his way to Manila. Among the important bills signed were the bill authorizing the redemption of Philippine National Bank circulating notes declared to have been illegally issued, and the bill extending price control until December 31, 1953, and providing for automatic deportation of any alien convicted of violating this statute. The vetoed measures included the bill making the elective member of the provincial board obtaining the largest number of votes vice-governor ex officio.

June 19:

The President ordered the release of P961,740 for the drilling of artesian wells in 41 provinces and chartered cities in order to meet the immediate demands for potable water supply throughout the country. The President had personally seen the needs for artesian wells in his visits to the provinces. The amount ordered released is the balance

left of the total allotment of P2,005,000 provided in the principal special budget of the Bureau of Public Works for the current fiscal year 1951–1952 for artesian wells.

The President approved six more bills passed by Congress during its last regular session, including House Bill No. 3110 which increases funds for the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems throughout the country.

In the evening, the President was awarded a testimonial plaque as “The Public Official of the Year” and a gold medal by the USAFIP in impressive ceremonies at the Malacañan ceremonial hall. Major General Calixto Duque, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and USAFIP national commander, in presenting the plaque to the President said that the Executive Committee in giving the award had made no other yardstick of distinction other than the quality and magnitude of the personal record of the man as a public official. In response, the President told the members of the USAFIP, NL veterans, that in the same manner that they defended freedom during the darkest hour of our history, he “shall rise from this moment to a higher level of public service and justify the citation and honor” they accorded him.

June 20:

The President signed Proclamation No. 321, declaring the period from August 25 to 31, 1952 as National Mental Health Week. The Philippine Mental Health Association was designated to take charge of the observance of the week, and all government and non-government entities and all residents of the Philippines were asked to lend their support and cooperation to the observance.

The directors of the National Federation of Philippine Farmers led by Jose Cojuangco, called at Malacañan at noon to pay their respects and pledged the full support of the federation to the President’s program of increased production. The President suggested to them the organization of an all-embracing National Federation of Philippine Farmers that would include all the planters in the Philippines in order that their federation could coordinate not only their activities and interests but also those of the different institutes as the sugar institute, the coconut institute, and the tobacco institute. The President further suggested that all these institutes adopt a uniform charter patterned after that of the sugar institute.

The President signed 13 bills in the presence of large delegations which called at Malacañan at noon to recommend approval of those measures. Among those bills signed were two labor bills, House Bill No. 827 which provides for the organization of national employment service as a means of ameliorating the serious unemployment problem in the country and House Bill No. 1020 which provides further amendments to the old workmen’s compensation Act of 1927.

In the evening, the President, after consultation with the Cabinet, signed five House bills and vetoed four House bills and one Senate bill. Among the bills signed by the President was House Bill No. 2437, authorizing the appropriation of P1,500,000 for the construction of the North General Hospital building, including the purchase of hospital equipment.

The President gave a dinner in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Decker at 8 p.m., at Malacañan Palace. Dr. Decker is the Assistant Director of the Mutual Security Agency in charge of the Far East.

June 21:

The President, aided by his advisers worked on the pending bills passed in the last regular session of Congress and finished taking action on all the measures hours before midnight, deadline provided by law within which to act on the bills. He signed a total of 135 bills, vetoed 49, and allowed four to become laws without being signed. The last bill signed was House Bill No. 3133 amending the Backpay Law of 1948 to permit backpay certificates to be converted into cash at a certain discount for immediate use of holders. Among the bills vetoed was House Bill No. 2114, creating the games and amusements board to supervise and regulate horse racing, boxing, wrestling, and other games. The President sent the bill back to Congress without his signature, saying that supervision of games and

amusements should not be subject to iron-clad rules enacted by Congress but should be elastic and flexible enough to permit their easy adjustment to new conditions.

June 23:

The President ordered the release of P58,676.69 from the Sweepstakes fund as aid to various health entities. Release of the allotment was made following the President's pledges in the course of his trips to the provinces to give aid to puericulture centers and hospitals. The sum of P2,080 was ordered released for the Maternity and Children's Hospital Extension Service at barrio Fugoso and Palomar, P9,296.69 as aid to the Romblon Emergency Hospital and the Indigents Children's Hospital in Manila, and P47,300 for the construction of puericulture centers and hospitals and for the Boy's Town of Manila.

The allocation of aids from the Charity Fund of the Sweepstakes to hospitals, puericulture centers, and Manila's Boy's Town has been made with no other purpose than to promote the welfare of that portion of our population who cannot, because of poverty or low income, provide for their own medical necessities, such as, care of the mother before and after delivery, care of infants and children, hospitalization, physician's fees, purchase of medicine, dental care, etc., according to a Malacañan statement issued later.

In the course of his conference with the senate committee which called on him in the morning to notify him officially that the Senate had been duly constituted and opened for the special session, the President took opportunity to point out that the enactment of "must" measures is the joint responsibility of both the legislative and executive departments of the government. He stressed the necessity of bipartisan action on measures submitted to the special session of Congress.

June 24:

The President spent most of his time in the morning studying various essential measures which he must certify for inclusion in the agenda of the special session of Congress, particularly the proposed amendments to the law governing the redemption of PNB notes. Shortly before noon, the President received at his office at the Executive Building Ambassadors Chen Chih-Ping of Nationalist China and Antonio Gullon Gomez of Spain. They each conferred with the President about 15 minutes as a routinary periodic courtesy call. The Chief Executive also received Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., who called to report on his trip to the United States and Europe, a few hours after landing at the Manila International Airport.

In the afternoon, the President inspected the progress of the work on the huge relief map of the Philippines at the Luneta. This relief map will indicate in miniature the locations of the industrial projects of the government.

June 25:

The President asked Congress to correct the "spurious" PNB Notes Redemption Law (Republic Act No. 734) by passing a new bill that will make the law conform to the correct text of the measure passed in the last regular session. In his letter to Congress, he informed the legislators that he had given instructions to the Secretary of Finance to enjoin the Treasurer of the Philippines from carrying out the provisions of Republic Act No. 734 which "does not express the true intent of the Congress. In a separate message, the President certified to the urgency of a law that would authorize him to transfer the title over Plaza Militar in Malate to the United States Government, or the Director of Lands to issue a patent for Plaza Militar without the restrictions generally imposed by his Bureau. Another bill calling for amendments to the Rice Tenancy Law, was certified as "urgent."

June 26:

At noon, the President had a two-hour conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo, U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, and MSA Chief Roland R. Renne to take up the

progress of the work on the various development projects in the Philippines which are being undertaken with MSA aid. The conference also discussed the program of development to be undertaken this year.

June 27:

The President signed Proclamation No. 325, designating the period from July 15 to August 14, 1952, for the national fund campaign of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines outside of greater Manila. The proclamation authorizes all national authorities and teachers to accept, for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, fund-raising responsibilities and urges them to give the organization active support and leadership in their communities.

In a brief interview with visiting Chinese newspapermen at Malacañan in the morning, the President expressed determination to continue pressing for the organization of a Pacific union even just for the psychological effect that such a union will give, so that the countries in this part of the world would stand together in the preservation of their democratic institutions. He expressed regret over the utter lack of direct understanding among democratic peoples and governments of Asia, pointing out that the only defense links these countries had, was through the United States, through the defense pacts it had entered separately with the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

June 28:

The President issued Proclamation No. 326, extending to July 5 the period of the special session of Congress to consider urgent legislative measures, following a lengthy conference with Speaker Eugenio Perez at Malacañan in the morning. The proclamation specified ten additional bills for consideration of Congress.

The President declared that government officers and employees who enrich themselves in office do violence to the principle that a public office is a public trust, in his statement embodied in his message to Congress certifying to the necessity of immediate enactment of House Bill No. 2377 entitled: "An Act to Provide for the Forfeiture to the State of Property unlawfully acquired by officers and employees of the government or of corporations owned or controlled by the governments, and to penalize the transfer of such property."

June 30:

The President signed at noon before a large group of Filipino traders Executive Order No. 510, reserving for Filipino merchants 50 per cent of the imports by local importers and indentors. The executive order promulgates rules and regulations implementing section 13 of Republic Act No. 650, otherwise known as the Import Control Law. In signing the executive order, the President called upon Filipino merchants to exercise vigilance in the protection of their rights and counselled them to be watchful against employing people who might be dummies of foreign importers. He emphasized that the effective implementation of the order designed to protect the interest of Filipino traders would largely depend upon the traders themselves.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Quirino, E. (1952). The Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48 (6), lxi-lxx.

President's Month in Review: July 4, 1952

The only discordant note during an otherwise impressive and memorable celebration of the 6th anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines was the float of the Filipino National Patriotic League carrying the inscription: "We demand mass deportation of Chinese." The float drew immediate reaction from the President that he was forced to digress from his prepared speech to apologize for the unfortunate incident.

President's Month in Review: July 30, 1952

Wednesday last week. — (July 30, 1952) Today, the seventh day of President Quirino's visit in Indonesia, President Quirino and his party went on a sightseeing trip throughout Bali island. The trip was from Denpasar on the south coast to Singaradja, the capital of Bali, on the north coast. At Singaradja, President Quirino and his group were honored at a reception given by the Bali governor, after which they returned to Denpasar.

President's Month in Review: July 31, 1952

Thursday. — (July 31, 1952) At Denpasar early in the morning, President Quirino and President Sukarno watched a colorful “allegorical procession” depicting ancient Balinese rituals. President Quirino addressed a student rally during which he stated that the revival of Philippine-Indonesian ties “presage an upsurge of East Asian culture.” After his address, President Quirino visited the famous Bali museum.

President Quirino rested in the afternoon upon the advice of his physician and did not join the tour of towns around Bali. (Playing the role of genial guide to the Filipino tourist, President Sukarno took his visitors to scenic and historical landmarks and at Singaradja, he addressed a huge crowd and hailed the Quirino visit as conducive to the Philippine-Indonesian unity.)

President's Month in Review: August 1, 1952

Friday. — (August 1, 1952) President Quirino and President Sukarno and their party enplaned for Sourabaya where they visited a naval base. They then proceeded to Djakarta, arriving late in the afternoon. In the evening, President Quirino was honored by Vice President Mohammed Hatta at a reception held in his residence.

President's Month in Review: August 2, 1952

Saturday. — (August 2, 1952) After breakfasting in the Negara Palace, President Quirino gave a press conference attended by local press representatives and foreign correspondents. He indirectly hit President Sukarno's neutrality policy, saying that such a policy is not in keeping with world trends. President Quirino pointed out that nations now maintain special inter-relations and commitments without necessarily losing independence. He also said that the main concern of Asians now is to preserve their freedom and liberty which were won with much sacrifice.

Following the press conference, President Quirino received members of the local Filipino community. In the afternoon, he attended a cocktail party given by Ambassador Proceso Sebastian.

In the evening, President Quirino honored President Sukarno at a state banquet held at the Hotel Des Indies. During this occasion, the two Presidents again made mutual pledges of amity and cooperation.

President's Month in Review: August 3, 1952

Sunday. — (August 3, 1952) After attending an early morning mass in an improvised church President Quirino and party left for Djakarta's Kemayoran airfield where the plane Bataan was waiting to take them back to the Philippines. A huge crowd of Indonesians, headed by their President, turned out to give the Filipino visitors a rousing farewell.

The plane Bataan, carrying President Quirino and party, arrived at the Manila International Airport at 5:05 in the afternoon. A big crowd, headed by Vice-President Fernando Lopez, was on hand to welcome the President: At an improvised platform on the airfield, President Quirino reported that he "brought home to the people the goodwill and the friendship of Indonesians" as well as their "trust and confidence."

President's Month in Review: August 4, 1952

Monday. — (August 4, 1952) President Quirino's lone caller was Congressman Ferdinand Marcos who wanted more funds with which to construct puericulture centers in Ilocos Norte. In the afternoon, President Quirino received members of the League of Provincial and City Treasurers and Assessors. He told them in his speech that politicians are to blame for scaring away investors and for spreading rumors that the Philippines is politically unstable. He urged them to intensify tax collection and lectured to them on how to get better results in their collection campaign.

The President took occasion to explain to the treasurers why he had to use a big plane on his trip to Indonesia. "You do not expect me to go in a caretela," he told them. "It is not Elpidio Quirino who is going to be glorified. It is the country; it is to its greatest honor, dignity, and prestige."

President's Month in Review: August 5, 1952

Tuesday. — (August 5, 1952) President Quirino had an early morning conference with Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, who recently returned from a trip which took him to Geneva, Madrid, and the United States. The labor secretary reported on the results of his trip. Later, the President received Eduardo Taylor, general manager of the Cebu Portland Cement Company, who stated that the U. S. government objected to the proposed construction of a branch of the cement firm in Poro, San Fernando, La Union.

Meeting at noon, President Quirino and his cabinet members took steps to sell the government houses in the Quirino and Roxas districts to the present occupant. The President created a special committee of three to study and effect a uniform system of selling these houses. The cabinet likewise took a hand in the fight to exterminate the locusts attacking rice crops in several southern Luzon and Visayan provinces. President Quirino ordered that all available planes of the Philippine air force be used in the campaign.

President's Month in Review: September, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

September 1:

The President mobilized relief agencies and other departments of the government for the aid of Zamboanga province which was heavily hit by the recent typhoon on August 29 and '30. He instructed Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez and the Red Cross to send, all aid in food, clothing, and medicine. The Department of Public Works was directed to look immediately into the damages on bridges and roads, and the Department of Agriculture, into the damages on the crops. Moreover, the Department of Justice was instructed to look into the situation in the San Ramon Penal Colony which was severely hit by the typhoon.

The President instructed Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to authorize the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to file the necessary petition in the court of first instance of Mountain Province for the settlement and adjudication of titles to a tract of land consisting of 6,393.1705 hectares. The survey of this land had been ordered by the government for the purpose of helping homeseekers to find lands on which they could settle and for which they might make applications so that said lands may eventually become their own.

September 2:

The President ordered the investigation of the National Rice and Corn Corporation- and the submission of a full report on the alleged potato' racket. He directed Economic Coordination Administrator Mariano Jesus Cuenco to make an overall inquiry into alleged irregularities committed in the NARIC. He also directed Import Control Commission Chairman Primitivo Lovina to submit to him immediately a complete report of the alleged racket on potatoes. The President, moreover, inquired from Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo on the progress of the asphalt investigation. Then he asked Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., about the status of the reported irregularities in the Alabang Serum and Vaccine Laboratory. The Chief Executive instructed his Cabinet members to be relentless in their house-cleaning and in carrying out the administration's avowed policy of going after graft and corruption.

. During the Cabinet meeting the President created a committee to carry out the provisions of the law creating a national pantheon, for which PI million had already been appropriated. The committee is composed of Secretary of Public Works. Pablo Lorenzo as chairman, Secretary of Education Cecilio Putong, Juan Arellano, and Jose Zaragoza, as members. Architect Illustre will serve as executive secretary.

Earlier in the morning, the President had a long conference with Foreign Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde who submitted a comprehensive report on the latest developments on negotiations being conducted with the United States Government in connection with the proposed revision of the Bell Trade Act. Secretary Elizalde also discussed with the President the existing air; agreement between the Philippines and the United States, as well as between this country and Japan.

September 3:

The President held a two-hour conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Elizalde, Commerce Secretary Balmaceda, and Manager Andres Soriano; and Daniel M. Gomez of the Philippine Air Lines on plans to expand the international services of the airline company. The conferees discussed plans to negotiate for an early revision of the air agreement of the Philippines with the United States as well as with Japan. The Philippines had just concluded an air treaty With Mexico to enable the PAL to fly across that country from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Malacañan announced that the Food Commission had submitted to the President an interim report of a five-year (1952-1957) food supply program for the Philippines. The program includes (1) consumption or nutrition program aimed at the gradual improvement of food consumption levels as well as recommendations for some supplementary nutrition program, (2) a food production schedule, and (3) an import program.

September 4:

The President's approval of a P25,000 aid for five emergency hospitals in the provinces in the face of an impending closure due to lack of funds, was announced by Malacañan. The President lost no time in approving the allotment made by the board of directors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in a meeting held earlier in the afternoon. Getting the lion's share of the Sweepstakes allotment is the Aurora Memorial Hospital in Baler, Quezon, which receives P10,000, The rest of the allotment is distributed as follows: Koxas Memorial Hospital (Capiz, Capiz), P5,000; Tayug Emergency Hospital (Tayug, Pangasinan), P3,000; and Pototan Emergency Hospital (Pototan, Iloilo), P2,000.

The request of the Food Importers Association to raise the ceiling price of sardines was turned down by the President, saying that any idea of increasing the prices of prime commodities sold for local consumption is against his "economic religion." The President said that any increase in the price of foodstuff, particularly sardines, would hurt the masses which form the bulk of local sardine consumers. He pointed out that the PRISCO, the NARIC, and other government entities are established to stabilize prices and make prime commodities available to all the people at low prices even at the risk of losing money as they actually do.

A group of local food importers called at Malacañan in the morning to submit a formal request for the increase of ceiling price of imported sardines. The group explained that unless its local selling price is raised, importation of this commodity would stop because its price in places of origin has gone up. The President replied that if local supply of sardines would run out, people could always find ready substitutes in their *daeng*, *tuyo*, *tinapa*, *bangos*, and other local fishes. This eventuality would encourage the local fishing industry, he pointed out.

September 5:

The President administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines in ceremonies held at the reception room of Malacañan's executive building. In his brief extemporaneous remarks before a large delegation of disabled veterans who attended the ceremonies, the President expressed admiration for their determination to carry on and continue serving the country despite various wounds and disabilities they had sustained during the last war.

Earlier in the morning, the President held a two-hour conference with Secretary Elizalde and PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo regarding the Philippine barter agreement with Japan due to expire at the end of the month. They also took up plans for the extension and rehabilitation of the Manila Railroad Company. Yulo submitted a report on the survey of the MRR firm conducted by a team of American engineers from the De Len Cather and Company.

September 6:

The President acted swiftly to carry out his plan to clean up the trouble and the miscarriage of justice in Sulu by removing from office Asaad Usman, justice of the peace of Siasi and Tapul, Sulu, in accordance with the recommendation of Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo. Usman was charged with extortion, terrorism, land grabbing, illegal collection of rentals, and immorality by several persons that took the witness stand during his investigation conducted by Secretary Castelo.

On the recommendation of Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, the President issued an executive order establishing and opening the municipalities of Bangao, Sitankai, Balabac, Taganak, and Cagayan de Sulu in the Sulu Sea as supports of entry. This step is calculated not only to halt smuggling in the southern islands, but also to afford the Moros better opportuni1-ties and more convenient means of carrying on legitimate trade and commerce with the islands of Borneo, Celebes, and other ports of Indonesia.

Malacañan released the following list of appointments and designations signed by the President: Ex-Senator Melecio Arranz as ad *interim* member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water- District for a term expiring on July 15, 1955; Eduardo Taylor, designated as acting chairman of the board of directors of the NDC in the absence of the regular incumbent; Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, acting chairman of the Board on National Pantheon; and Juan

Arellano and Jose M. Zaragoza, as members of the Board on National Pantheon. The President also signed the appointment of Serapio J. Datoc as *ad interim* governor of the newly created province of Zamboanga del Sur; Dr. Flaviano Medalla and Jose Sanson, as *ad interim* board members; and Jose Cabato, as *ad interim* provincial fiscal of the new province.

Some 300 residents from the government housing projects in Roxas and Quirino districts, Quezon City, marched to Malacañan to stage a “gratitude rally” for the President’s decision to sell the houses to their present occupants after a certain period of time. Their spokesmen said that the President’s decision is “an equivocal expression, a concrete proof,” of his concern for the masses and low-salaried employees of the government. In his extemporaneous speech, the President called the occasion “one of the proudest moments” he had ever had since his assumption of office as Chief Executive. The President received separate resolutions of gratitude and appreciations by the residents of the Roxas and the Quirino housing districts.

September 7:

The President went to the 1952 annual orchid show of the Philippine Orchid Society at 8 Silencio, Santa Mesa. Director of National Museum Eduardo Quisumbing, an orchid financier and authority, showed the President around, explaining the names of the various orchids. The President admired in particular the pale red spider orchid. He asked about the ground orchid known as *spathoglottis* high-breed which he said he would like to have planted in his Novaliches country home.

September 8:

Malacañan announced the following appointments and designations: Gabriel Belmonte was designated acting chairman and Francisco Ortigas, appointed *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the NARIC; Pio Pedrosa, designated acting chairman and Marcelo Adduru, Luis Lichauco, and Vicente Araneta, appointed *ad interim* members of the board of directors of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration.

The President signed Proclamation No. 336, withdrawing from settlement except by homestead or purchase in small parcels public lands located along the proposed road projects in Mindanao. According to the proclamation, all lands of public domain suitable for agriculture or for residential districts located within a strip of six kilometers wide on each side of the projected highways in Mindanao are withdrawn from settlement and are to be divided into farm lots of not more than 10 hectares each. Residential sites will also be subdivided into convenient-sized lots which any qualified person may acquire by purchase or homestead. Not more than one farm lot or one residential lot will be sold to any person.

The President approved the release of P1,600,000 for various public works construction. The sum is covered by a special budget and is chargeable against the Highways Special Fund earmarked for the “maintenance, improvement, or construction of interprovincial and coast roads or for the maintenance and improvement of roads subject to unusually heavy traffic.” The allotment will be used for the improvement of the following: the Gate—Matnog road in Sorsogon, the Malaban-Cotabato boundary road in Lariao, and the Oriental Misamis-Agusan road in Oriental Misamis.

September 9:

The Cabinet approved the ban on the importation of incandescent bulbs (115V and 220V), fluorescent tubes (bulb 14 to 40 watts), grey cloth, foreign lining and sheepskin lining and splits, and pure tomato catsup. The Cabinet also approved to reduce by 20 per cent the importation of upper leather. The Import Control Commission and the Administrator of Economic Coordination recommended strongly the ban on the importation of these articles. The Cabinet, however, made a condition that the ban should be lifted as soon as there is evidence of undue increase in prices and deterioration of the qualities of said items.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President received reports of department secretaries on the investigations they were undertaking in their respective offices to carry out the President’s directive to clean house. Secretary of Justice

Castelo reported that he had circularized all fiscals and justices of the courts to give priority to pending cases involving government officials and employees, especially, those under trial for graft and corruption. He reported that 33 erring officials and employees had been brought to court for trial. Of these 33 cases, there were nine convictions and eight acquittals. The rest of the cases are still pending in the courts of first instance of Manila and nearby provinces. Executive Secretary Marciano Roque reported that the Office of the President had conducted administrative investigations of 50 officials and employees of the government since President Quirino assumed office on April 17, 1948. As a result of these investigations, 15 officials were dismissed, seven were allowed to resign, five were suspended, five were reprimanded, two were fined, two were admonished, and six were exonerated.

The President at the Cabinet meeting directed the different departments of the government concerned to coordinate their activities and efforts in the operation against the "sex" gangs operating in Manila and nearby towns. The directive was specifically given to Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, Justice Secretary Castelo, and Defense Secretary Magsaysay. The President wants the strong arms of the law to eradicate the kidnapping of innocent girls and the recruiting of minors for white-slave traffic. The President also ordered Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., to accelerate the campaign against snail fever and to eradicate the disease without delay so that planters in rice-producing provinces in the South where this disease is prevalent could concentrate their efforts to the production of the staple commodity. This order was given in the course of the visit at noon of Prof. D. B. McMullen, head of the zoological department of the U. S. Army medical school in Washington D.C., whom Secretary Salcedo accompanied to Malacañan.

The President appointed former Senator Melecio Arranz as *ad interim* chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Railroad Company; Pablo Gupaal, as justice of the peace of Lubuzgan, Tinglayan, and Taundan, Mountain Province; Salvador Palma, as justice of the peace of Buenavista, Agusan; Jose Aluning, as justice of the peace of Nasipit, Agusan; Tranquilino Calo as justice of the peace of Carmen, Agusan; Agustin R. Astorga, as justice of the peace of San Sebastian, Samar; Angel V. Jamias, as clerk of court of Ilocos Norte; and Enrique Claudio, Jr., as clerk of court of Samar.

September 10:

The President approved the allotment of P50,000 from the Sweepstakes fund to augment the maintenance and operational expenses of puericulture centers all over the islands for the present fiscal year. He also ordered the release of P20,000 from the same fund, for the continuous operation of the Quezon Institute, and P3,890 as aid for the payment of salaries and wages of 20 relief workers in the Indigent Children's Hospital for the second quarter of the present fiscal year.

A further step in the agricultural development of the country was taken on the same day when the President released P99,520 for the organization of the National Agricultural School in Masbate. The appropriation covers the needs for the salaries and wages of the school staff and for the purchase of machine shop and farm tools, machinery, and equipment.

September 11:

Officers and directors of the National Federation of Women's Clubs called on the President to congratulate him for the immediate action he had taken against sex gangs and for his interest in insuring the protection of women's honor and the safety of their daughters. The association pledged its unconditional support to the crusade against the wave of sex crimes and the activities of the sex gangs in all the provinces. At the same time the women leaders presented a strong protest against the justice of the peace of Caloocan for the summary dismissal of the complaints against three of those arrested by the police in connection with their trafficking in women. They asked the President for disciplinary action against the judge. The President told the leaders of the NFWC who called on him that he would not wait for convictions in court to throw out of the country aliens engaged in the slave traffic. He told the delegation that he was very happy to hear their pledge that they will utilize the provincial chapters of women's club to arouse national indignation against the wave of sex crimes which constitute a serious menace to the safety of girls and the morale of our women.

The President received assurance from NARIC General Manager Gabriel Belmonte that there will be no rice shortage in the country this year. Belmonte reported to the Chief Executive during a morning conference that about 88,000 tons of rice will arrive within the months of September and October and that this shipment alone will be enough to supply local needs this year.

The President designated Col. Amado N. Bautista acting chairman of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Co. to replace former Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, who had insistently asked to be relieved of the position in view of his many duties in the Far Eastern University. The President also appointed *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Manuel "Dindo" Gonzalez, vice Ernesto Rufino, who had also asked to be relieved because of his pressing work in private business,

September 12:

At a simple but impressive oath-taking ceremonies at the Council of State room, the President inducted the six-man body of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Corporation chaired by PNB President Pio Pedrosa. The board of governors headed by Pedrosa includes: Marcelo Adduru, Vicente Araneta, Luis Lichauco, Facardo Gonzalez Lloret, and Domingo Paguirigan. After administering to them their oaths of office, the President told the newly constituted board of governors of the ACCFA of the "immediate necessity" of making a systematic distribution of assistance to small farmers. He envisaged that such a move "would help reduce the cost of living in the Philippines." The Chief Executive singled out, as meriting immediate assistance, "farmers and cooperatives which have to do with the production of prime commodities, especially rice and corn, poultry, and such other essential activities."

The President called into conference General" Ralph B. Lovett, manager of the U. S. Veterans Administration, and General Guillermo Francisco, chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board, to inquire into the status of soldiers entitled to hospital benefits under the Rogers Act. He told General Lovett and General Francisco that he would like to see the hospital constructed soon. General Lovett informed the President that as of September, 1952, approximately 830 veterans are undergoing treatment in several hospitals in Manila and the provinces, at an average cost of \$10.75 a day. He said that work on the big veterans hospital proposed at Diliman will be started as soon as the revised plans arrived from the United States.

On the eve of, the celebration of Arbor Day, the President issued a proclamation to supplement his Arbor Day order enjoining the citizenry and all residents "to plant trees and plants of economic value throughout the year, particularly on vacant lots, to replace those of unproductive value, and to take good care of them in order that they may develop to maturity." Under an earlier presidential proclamation dated July 30, 1947, the second Saturday of September each year was declared Arbor Day in order to draw the attention of the people to the importance of trees and plants in everyday life. (See pp. 3730-3731, for full text of the new proclamation and pp. 3827-3828 for the text of the President's message).

Acting with swiftness in his effort to clean the government, the President ordered the immediate suspension of Severino Fernandez, chief construction engineer, and Quirino Camus, chief of the administrative division, both of the Bureau of Public Works. The suspension order was issued upon receipt of the reports submitted by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo on the anomalies recently discovered regarding asphalt shipments. The President directed Secretary Lorenzo to continue with his administrative investigations of the two officials and look into possible involvement of other officials in the anomalies. He also directed Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo to go over the reports to see whether the two suspended officials were liable for criminal or any other court action.

The Cabinet devoted a considerable portion of its discussion on the progress of the campaign against the sex gangs. The President received reports from various secretaries whom he had directed at the last Cabinet meeting to undertake a joint campaign against the sex gangs. He directed the Secretary of Justice to serve warning to notaries public who had allegedly prepared false affidavits that the girls recruited were of age, and to take action against notaries public who could be held partly responsible for the nefarious activities of labor recruiters.

September 13:

The President approved the recommendation of the National Economic Council for a P2-million loan to the LASEDECO from the RFC. This amount will enable the LASEDECO to bolster and push through the President's program of land settlement by small landholders, especially in Mindanao.

The President signed Executive Order No. 530, banning the importation of certain materials to implement the recent decision of the Cabinet banning the materials enumerated in this executive order. He also signed Executive Order No. 531, fixing the ceiling prices of Hansen roasted coffee and of Target corned beef, and eliminating the ceiling prices of cheese, being a non-essential item under the Import Control Law. Executive Order No. 531 also transfers the province of Zamboanga from the list of provinces under zone 1 to the list of provinces under zone 2 because of Zamboanga's distance from Manila and the high cost of transportation and handling charges from Manila to Zamboanga.

The President led the nation in the proper observance of Arbor Day by planting in the afternoon a foot-high star apple tree on the lawn fronting the Palace.

September 14:

The President issued a series of directives to members of his Cabinet to hasten execution of his program of beautifying Manila. He directed the immediate rehabilitation of the Metropolitan Theater and the Botanical Gardens on Plaza Lawton and the clearing of Intramuros of debris, tall cogon grass, and makeshift houses of squatters. He ordered Public Works Secretary Lorenzo to submit to him immediately concrete plans for the rehabilitation of the Metropolitan Theater.

The President ordered Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo to look into the charges that justices of the peace and notaries public had certified that most of the girls recruited in the provinces by several employment agencies were of legal age when in fact they were minors between 12 and 16 years old. He directed the Department of Justice to go after the notaries public and justices of the peace guilty of falsifying ages of girls recruited by employment agencies.

September 15:

The Council of States approved the opening of 3,000 extension classes in the public schools effective the next semester, which starts in November. The Council also approved the economic development program with MSA aid for the fiscal year 1952-53, as submitted by PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo, subject to later readjustment in the case of public health. The Council authorized Education Secretary Cecilio Putong to utilize unobligated portions of the contingent funds of the Department of Education, which amount to P2,889,000, to finance the opening of 3,000 extension classes in the elementary schools. This amount will be reimbursed from funds which will be sought in a deficiency bill to be presented to Congress in January to finance the extension classes. Secretary Putong had requested P5,934,800 for the maintenance of 3,000 classes throughout the country for 1952-1953, but it was figured out that P2,889,000 and other sums in the appropriations of the Department of Education which are still unobligated, would be sufficient to start those classes.

The President brought up at the meeting of the Council of State the petition of the league of justices of the peace from Ilocos Sur for readjustment of salaries of justices of the peace in accordance with the Judiciary Act of 1948. Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo was directed to study the petition and make recommendations.

Visiting members of the Nationalist China's legislative yuan, accompanied by Ambassador Chen Chih-ping, paid a courtesy call on the President at Malacañan in the morning. The visiting Chinese solons informed the President they had come on a goodwill mission and to see the progress the Philippines has made since the war. They expressed confidence in the ability of the Nationalists to reconquer eventually from the Communists the mainland of China.

Following the call of the Chinese legislators, the President received Minister Philip Bonsai of the U. S. State Department and in charge of Southeast Asian Affairs, who also paid a courtesy call at Malacañan, accompanied by Ambassador Raymond Spruance.

Shortly before noon, the Chief Executive administered the oaths of office to Juan Arellano and Jose M. Zaragoza as members of the Board on National Pantheon. He also inducted Amado Bautista *asad interim* chairman and Manuel Gonzalez as member of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Co.

In his 47th monthly radio chat broadcast at 7 p.m., from his Malacañan study, the President struck hard at his detractors and enumerated the accomplishments of his administration in answer to their criticisms. He called his critics “political *laca-locas*” and charged them with sowing confusion among the people. (See Historical *Pavers and Documents*, pp. 3831-3836, for the full text of the radio chat.)

September 16:

The President left at 9:10 a.m., in his official plane *Lacmg Loan* for Zamboanga City on the first leg of his Mindanao trip to make a survey of the damage and destruction wrought by the recent flood in Zamboanga. Speaking to a big crowd in a barrio which he visited in the course of his inspection of the flood-ravaged areas of Zamboanga City, the President appealed for increased production in Mindanao. He told the people to take advantage of the millions of pesos pouring into their region under his “total economic mobilization program.”

Before enplaning for Zamboanga City, the President approved the appointments of six officials for the newly created municipality of Dansalan, Davao. Those appointed were: Apolonio P. Iligan, as mayor; Casiano L. Ampoloquio, as vice mayor; and Dr. Elvira A. Villamin, Mrs. Rosendo Javelona, Zacarias Bernal, and Dr. Pedro A. Arches, as councilors. The new town was created through Executive Order No. 5.06 dated June 6, 1952.

September 17:

Malacañan ruled that employees of the Manila Health Department required to render full time service on Sundays and holidays be grouped into shifts to afford, them a day of rest every week provided they shall not work less than the number of hours of labor on work days in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service.

A new province was born, the 52nd province in the Philippines and 10th in Mindanao, when the President inaugurated at 11 a.m. the new province of Zamboanga del Sur. The inauguration ceremonies held at the town plaza of Pagadian, capital of the new province, included the induction into office of Serapio Datoc as Governor, and Flaviano Medalla and Jose Sanson, as board members of the new province. As he cut the ribbon symbolic of the division of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte, the President said he was doing it so as not really to separate the two new provinces, but to make them co-exist in a spirit of cooperation and mutual help. With the birth of the new province, he said, he had created another agency to carry out the government’s program of economic development, peace and order, and unity to make this Republic not only prosperous but also enduring. The President held a two-hour conference at night with provincial “and municipal officials of Zamboanga del Sur aboard the yacht *Apo* in the presence of Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo and Finance Secretary Aurelio Montmola. Eleven mayors of the new province fully endorsed the President’s land settlement program limiting to ten hectares the areas to be given to settlers along both side of the national highways which the government is now rushing to construct all over Mindanao. They agreed with the President that this policy will spread the benefits of public domain to as given to settlers along both sides of the national highways which the government is now rushing to construct all over Mindanao. They agreed with the many settlers as possible and solve the problem of squatting which is becoming a threat to the tranquility of Mindanao.

September 18:

The President arrived at Parang, Cotabato, at 9:30 a.m. He was received by a fluvial parade, with Moro *kumpits* displaying an array of multicolored flags. A big crowd in colorful Moro costumes, led by Governor Duma Sinsuat, greeted the Presidential party at the Parang pier.

In a brief extemporaneous speech delivered at the inauguration ceremonies of the four-span bridge in Cotabato town, the President told the people that the inauguration of the three big bridges is vital to the communications in the locality and that it is but the beginning of the benefits forthcoming to the province with a view to -hastening the development of that region of Mindanao. He praised the people for the tremendous progress of their province which had been raised from third to first class A in two years. He inspired them to work even harder so that Cotabato would continue to vie with other Mindanao provinces as the granary not only of that region but of the whole country. .

Arriving at Davao City in the afternoon on the last leg of his Mindanao trip, the President told a crowd of 20,000 people gathered at the provincial capital that he would spend the last centavo of the government to carry but its program of economic development. He pointed out that if he does it, he would not be mortgaging the country but investing to insure the country's future to provide sources of income, wealth, and means of livelihood. For more than an hour the President made an impassioned plea for unity, for more work, and to forget politics which has been a deterrent to economic progress.

The President wired from the yacht Apo his approval of the sending of a Philippine delegation to the forthcoming ECAFE conference in Bangkok; Thailand, from September 22 to 27, 1952. He designated the following to compose the delegation: Jose P. Trinidad, chief of the national finance division of the Department of Finance, delegate; Juan Canizares, assistant director of the Central Bank securities market division, alternate; and Honesto Nicandro, chief of the public finance division, Central Bank department of economic research, alternate delegate.

September 19

At a conference in the Davao City Hall at 10 a.m. with provincial and municipal officials, the President said that he will not lift the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in the provinces of Luzon and other places where he considers it dangerous in view of the current activities of communists who are bent on overthrowing the government. Prolonged applause greeted the President's announcement that he could not allow persons convicted or facing court trial to mix with people and resume their activities of fighting the government in an attempt to overthrow it. The President's statement practically serves as a reply to the letter, of Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez asking the restoration of the writ.

The President heard the problems confronting the municipal officials, the petition of veterans organizations for immediate release to veterans of former abaca plantations in Davao so that they could get their titles to those lands, and the petition of abaca planters for government help in the stabilization of prices of abaca and in opening abaca markets in Europe, and the establishment in Davao of a branch of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration. After meeting with the Davao officials, the President motored to the Davao: Penal Farm, about 50 miles away, to inspect the conditions of the colony.

September 20:

The President took off from Davao; City airport On the Presidential plane *Laong Laan* at 9:30 in the morning and arrived in Manila at 1:45 p.m. after a four-day fruitful tour of Mindanao. He was met at the PAF Base Operations by members of his Cabinet and' by his granddaughter Marivic, who was brought along by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luis Gonzalez.

September 21:

Malacañan ruled that the appointment of the chief of police and policemen made by the mayor does not require the consent of the municipal council. The ruling was handed down by Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque in a letter sent to the municipal mayor of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo. The letter also said that the appointments, of subordinate

officers and employees in the municipal service must be made by the mayor in accordance with civil service laws and regulations, and to be approved by the department head concerned and not by the municipal council. In a separate letter to Mayor Julio J. Ganabon of Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, Secretary Roque also ruled that the appointments of barrio lieutenants shall be done by the municipal councilors and are not subject to the approval or disapproval of the mayor. In handing down the two rulings, Executive Order No. 175 and section 2218 of the Revised Administrative Code were respectively cited.

September 22:

The President ordered the suspension of Manila Deputy Police Chief Celestino Juan pending the malversation case filed against him in the court of first instance by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, in accordance with the administration policy of suspending government officials facing charges involving moral turpitude. At the same time Mayor Lacson was given 72 hours within which to answer the eight-point administrative countercharge filed against him by Juan.

Following the conference with Secretary Roque early in the morning during which he acted on important papers, the President made a surprise inspection at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources offices on Taft Avenue. He summoned all the chiefs of the different divisions and, in the presence of Acting Secretary Jose Camus, he directed them to rush disposition of public lands already settled, open up new agricultural lands for settlement by squatters and by new waves of settlers going to Mindanao. He also ordered the investigation of complaints of alleged discriminations by Bureau of Lands officials in Mindanao against settlers in favor of friends and relatives. He told forestry officials to rush the release of forest lands for agricultural purposes—so that the Bureau of Lands could start immediately on their subdivision to accommodate new settlers.

Returning to Malacañan about 12:30 p.m., the President conferred with Manila City Fiscal Eugenio Angeles regarding the illicit importation of some 4,000 tons of asphalt valued at \$244,000 by private contractors in the name of the Bureau of Public Works through alleged connivance of two public works officials, from December 1951 to June 1952. The anomaly consisted of the nonpayment of P131,000 in taxes because of the misrepresentation that the importation was by a government office. The President ordered the city fiscal to prosecute the case without delay.

September 23:

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the National Power Corporation to send abroad four of its technical men for actual training in fertilizer plant operation and maintenance in preparation for the operation of the government fertilizer plant at Maria Cristina, Lanao, scheduled to start on January 1, 1953. Those to be sent are: Wenceslao Trinidad, to study plant supervision, hydrogen, and nitrogen gas production, and ammonia synthesis; Cesar Santos, to study sulphuric acid production; Raul R. Pascual, to study ammonium sulphate production; and Marcelo Bulaong, to study plant maintenance and repair. The Cabinet also approved the sending of Mrs. Belen S. Arguelles, technical assistant of the Department of Education, to Spain to take advantage of a scholarship, in the Central University of Madrid. She will prepare for greater usefulness to her Department, particularly in the implementation of Republic Act No. 709, requiring the teaching of Spanish in all colleges and universities in the Philippines.

The President early in the morning motored to the Singian Clinic to visit Representative Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, who had been confined there since a gall bladder attack several days ago.

Upon his return to Malacañan about 10:30 a.m., the President conferred with Executive Secretary Roque over pending state papers. He approved the award of a presidential citation badge to Squadron No. 201 of the Mexican airforce which had been attached to a unit of the U.S. airforce which participated in the liberation of the Philippines in 1944. He also appointed Atilano Mangibin and Liberate B. Cinco as *ad interim* provincial assessors of La Union and Samar respectively, and Antonio Betita as *ad interim* member of the municipal board of Iloilo City vice the late Manuel Hechanova.

In the afternoon, the President inducted the officers of two veterans organization—the Confederation of War Widows and Dependents of the Philippines and the Confederation of Central Luzon Veterans. He also inducted Fr.

Melanio J. Raymundo as member of the Philippine Veterans Boai'd. The induction ceremonies were held separately at the Social Hall, but the President addressed the two groups together. He told the war widows that the government is duty-bound to extend protection and assistance to them and that he is looking into a more equitable distribution of benefits. The President expressed the wish that all veterans organizations throughout the Philippines be unified so that they can work wholeheartedly for their common objectives. He expressed bewilderment when another veterans organization from Central Luzon, the Confederation of Central Luzon Veterans, called on him to request that he induct the officers of the organization. He was originally-scheduled to induct only the officers of the Confederation of War Widows and Dependents of the Philippines.

September 24:

The President issued Proclamation No. 339, opening for disposition, and settlement the non-Christian reservation established long before the outbreak of the Pacific War in Baler, Quezon Province. It revoked Proclamation No. 818 dated June 18, 1935, establishing; the aforementioned reservation in Baler. The President also issued Proclamation No. 340, listing the latest values of nine foreign currencies for purposes of assessment and collection of custom duties, to conform with deviations in the countries specified. (See pp. 3732-3733, for full text of the proclamations.)

In the course of his conference with Philippine delegates to the 7th World Congress of Jaycee International who called on him in the morning following their recent return from Australia, the President signified his desire to hold hi the Philippines another regional conference of Southeast Asian countries as a follow-up of the Baguio Conference of 1950. He intimated that he had already given instructions to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo in Washington to sound off United Nations representative of various Asian countries which participated at the Baguio Conference two years ago. The President said that if the countries concerned had no objection, he would like to hold another conference in the summer capital in May, immediately after international fair to be held in Manila from February 1 to April 30. He said he would invite representatives from Australia and Zealand to the conference.

The President gave the traditional state dinner in honor of the Chief Justice and the Justices of the Supreme Court at Malacañan Palace at 3 o'clock in the evening. Members of the Cabinet, Justices of the Court of Appeals, members of the Commission on Elections, Auditor General Manuel Agregado, and Senator Claro M. Recto were invited to the state dinner. (See pp. 3841-3843, for full text of the extemporaneous speech of the President during the state dinner.)

September 25:

The President held a breakfast conference with U. P. President Vidal

A. Tan and PGH Director B. M. Sison. Dr. Tan is leaving to represent the Philippines to the coming UNESCO conference in the. United States, while Dr. Sison has just arrived from Baltimore where he worked for the P200,000 Rockefeller Foundation aid for the U. P. The President designated Dr. Enrique Virata, U. P. vice president, to act as U. P. head during Dr. Tan's absence.

Belgian Minister to the Philippines Rene Guillaume presented his credentials to the President at the ceremonial hall of the Malacañan Palace at 5: 30 in the afternoon. In response to the Belgian Minister's presentation of credentials speech, the President expressed confidence that the Philippine-Belgian relations will continue to grow closer and stronger with the years. (See pp. 3843-3845, for full texts of the speeches.)

September 26:

The President authorized Philippine participation in the second session of the sub-committee on electric power scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand, from September 29 through October 2, 1952. He designated Hermenegildo

B. Reyes, vice president of the Meralco, and Jose M. Jovellanos, chief of the power utilization division of the National Power Corporation, as delegates to the conference.

During his surprise visit at the NARIC office on Azcarraga, the President ordered the NARIC officials to find a way to reduce the price of rice from ₱1.10 (Macan) to ₱0.80 a ganta. He directed them to submit immediately proposals for bringing down the price of rice for the benefit of low-income consumers. Naric officials estimated that because 53,000 tons of rice contracted from abroad had already been delivered and that 16,000 tons more were arriving, there will be sufficient supply to cover the needs of the country for this cereal, outside of the coming rice crop. In view of this assurance, the President ordered the NARIC to stop further buying of rice from abroad. He also called attention in the course of his inspection of the NARIC office to many employees who did not seem to be doing any work. He left instructions to reorganize the office so that everyone would be kept busy.

September 27:

Before leaving for Pangasinan, the President signed Executive Order No. 534, fixing ceiling prices of corned beef of the Emery and the Exeter brands as recommended by the Price Administration Board. Malacañan also authorized the release of ₱10,000 for the puericulture center in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, and ₱1,800 for the Maternity and Children's Hospital in Manila. Both amounts had been appropriated from funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes.

Arriving at the Lingayen airstrip at 9:20 a.m., the President and his party composed of members of the Cabinet, Senator Tomas Cabili, and former Secretary Teofilo Sison were greeted by a joint delegation led by Governor Juan de C. Rodriguez. The President delivered three speeches—one in the provincial plaza in Lingayen, another at Binmaley and the third at the Dagupan Colleges auditorium before Jaycees, Rotarians, Lions, and the Pangasinan Federation of Women's Club. Judging from the prolonged applause, the President won the hearts of the people of Pangasinan through those three speeches. In Lingayen, the Chief Executive was cheered when he said that it is lamentable that it takes foreign visitors to appreciate and praise the amazing recovery which the Philippines has made from the ruins of the last war, while some of our own people persist in being blind to all those accomplishments. He suggested less frequent elections so that elective officials can concentrate more on constructive work. At Dagupan City, warning of the threat of a new global conflict, the President urged the people "to prepare for our own salvation."

The President received a most colorful reception highlighted by a torch parade Saturday evening at San Carlos, Pangasinan, hometown of Speaker Eugenio Perez. He went to San Carlos to inaugurate a 30-bed maternity hospital. In a single-day, the Chief Executive delivered a record number of five speeches beginning with that in Lingayen, then in Binmaley, Dagupan, Calasiao, and San Carlos. He returned to Dagupan past midnight.

September 28:

After the early mass he heard at the Dagupan Catholic Church, the President conferred with Pangasinan Mayors. Then he motored to Alaminos, and on his way he inaugurated the Nicanor Padilla bridge in Bugallon at 11 a.m. In his speech delivered at the Alaminos town plaza at noon, the President enjoined the people to cast aside their political differences and work together for the progress of our young Republic. He advised them to be industrious, to go out into the field and work. He counseled them to lead clean and peaceful lives.

After a rough sea trip through the Hundred Islands, the President arrived at the coast of Sto. Tomas, La Union, about 7 p.m. The narrow Canarvacan peninsula extending from the town of Sto. Tomas stirred to life when the President paid it an unexpected visit. Some 600 inhabitants of the peninsula almost all of them poor but peaceful fishermen brightened up when the Chief Executive told them that he would give them an artesian well and do his best to establish a school for their children who have to hike three kilometers to attend classes in a neighboring barrio. Arriving at Poro about 11 p.m. aboard the yacht *Apo*, the President was met at the wharf by La Union officials headed by Gov. Juan Carbonell and Representative Manuel T. Cases.

September 29:

Speaking at a rally at the La Union High School grounds, the President lashed back at his critics, one of whom had called him economic *tontolizer*, saying that the criticism was prompted by envy over the success of his administration. He said: "I have been able to accomplish a balance sheet with more assets than liabilities."

Answering his critics' charge that the Philippines was subservient to America, the President said the country could not reach economic stability without foreign aid. He declined to say whether or not he would run again for the Presidency upon being urged indirectly to stay "many more years in Malacañan by Nacionalista Governor Juan Carbonell.

September 30:

In a speech at a huge welcome rally held, in front of the municipal building in Vigan, the President urged the people of Ilocos Sur to set an example in maintaining harmony, peace and order, and cooperation with the national government for other provinces to follow. He flew to his hometown from Poro Point with newspapermen mainly to inspect the site of Quirino Park. He returned to Poro Point at 4:30 in the afternoon after a six-hour stay in Vigan.

Malacañan announced presidential approval of a P100,000 special budget of the Bureau of Plant Industry for the final prosecution of the anti-locust drive.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: October, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

October 1:

United States Assistant Secretary of State John Allison, accompanied by Ambassador Raymond Spruance made a call on the President. He conferred for an hour with the Chief Executive and Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on almost all phases of the Far Eastern problems touching on the Philippines and the regional security of the Far East. Shortly before 1 p.m., the conference broke up, and the conferees proceeded to the Palace reception hall for the luncheon given by the President in honor of Secretary and Mrs. Allison. The President arrived this morning in Nichols Field about 10:30 from a fourday inspection tour of Pangasinan, La Union, and Ilocos Sur.

In his speech delivered after the luncheon given by the President. Secretary Allison pointed out the significance of the USPI Mutual Defense Treaty. He said that the treaty was designed "to show to the world that the United States has not forgotten what the Filipino people did in 1941-1945 and it is time to show, if it need ever be, that the Philippines need not stand alone." He underscored the leadership of President Quirino in advocating, more regional consciousness in the Far East and said, "We are watching what you do with sympathetic eyes and that we are ready to step in and help friends, and now we want to help."

In introducing Secretary Allison the President said that the visit of the highranking state official was interpreted by him as an indication of America's interest not only in the Philippines but in the regional interest. He said: "We no longer feel that we are alone as their friends and allies here. For that reason, it is necessary that we understand each other more closely and promote more effectively our common interests for common survival." Recalling what he had told the U. S. Senate in 1949, the President said, "I invited the American people to turn their eyes to the East in 1949. I hope they will not only turn their eyes now but fix their eyes, concentrate their attention, and give us their heart." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 43154322, for full texts of the speeches.)

October 2:

Following the recommendation of Vice President Fernando Lopez, concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the President ordered the immediate settlement and adjudication of the titles of tracts of land in the Aurora Public Lands Subdivision in Zamboanga and in the Tuburan Public Lands Subdivision in Lanao. The Director of Lands was authorized to cause the necessary petition to be filed in the Courts of First Instance of Lanao and Zamboanga for the settlement and adjudications of the tracts of lands in question.

The President conferred with Gabriel Belmonte, NARIC general manager and acting chairman of the board of directors, on the rice situation, following reports of Economic Coordination Administrator Mariano Jesus Cuenco that the NARIC faces a possible loss of P3 million if it would sell rice at the proposed reduced price of ₱.90 a ganta. Belmonte was instructed to confer with Administrator Cuenco in order to check up their figures very carefully, because according to the latter the price of rice could not be reduced to ₱.90 a ganta without losing about ₱3 million, even if granted the exemption of the 2 per cent import license fee and the reduction of the bank interest from ₱.06 to ₱.03 proposed by the NARIC officials in order to carry out the wish of the President to reduce the price of rice to ₱.90 a ganta.

October 3:

The President resumed his conferences with Assistant Secretary of State John Allison in Malacañan. This time, the talks dealt on the economic development of the country as envisaged in the Quirino-Foster Agreement. Also present at the breakfast conference were United States Ambassador Raymond Spruance, Dr. Roland R. Renne (chief of the MSA office in Manila), Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, and PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo. The President told Secretary Allison that the Philippines is very happy that the implementation of the development program of the country is being undertaken properly and speeded up.

Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay reported to the Cabinet on the alleged show of force by the army in the arrest of Senator Justiniano S. Montano at his home in Quezon City. He said that under existing conditions Col. Eulogio Balao, IIMA commander, was justified in rushing to the Senator's place with 20 soldiers, two armored cars, and two power wagons. He pointed out that this action was taken because of the reports reaching Colonel Balao to the effect that a big number of people from Maragondon were allegedly preparing to go to Senator Montano's place to attack him and burn his home, following the circulation of reports that complaints were to be filed against Montano in connection with the Maragondon killings.

October 4:

The President conferred at length in the morning on the recommendation of the Wage Board for the metallic mining industries with Secretary of Finance Aurelio Montinola, Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, and Wage Administration Service Chief Emiliano Morabe. The Board recommended six month's extension for the gold and three month's for the copper, manganese, iron, chromite, and lead-silver mining industries. The mining Wage Board was the first board created by the Secretary of Labor for the purpose of determining whether or not a relief in the form of time extension is necessary for any industry which may be adversely affected by the application of the full statutory minimum wage of ₱4.

Following the conference which lasted until 10 a.m., the President received a large delegation of congressmen who called to inform him that 51 solons had already signed their petition for the release of public works funds through the use of the President's emergency powers. They urged the Chief Executive to issue an executive order as soon as possible as the funds are urgently needed in their respective provinces.

October 5:

Alarmed by newspaper reports of mounting casualties resulting from traffic accidents, the President directed the Public Service Commission to take the necessary measures immediately to prevent the recurrence of such accidents by holding public utility operators concerned to strict accountability and responsibility. The President observed that most fatalities and grave physical injuries to passengers and pedestrians resulted from accidents among public utility vehicles.

October 6:

The President administered the oath of office to former Councilor Andress Sta. Maria as *ad interim* municipal judge of Manila. After the ceremony, the President told the new appointee: "You have been in Manila politics for a long time but after taking your oath as judge, you must divest yourself completely of all political considerations. . . . Don't be afraid of your fellow Liberals," he said. "If they violate the law, don't hesitate to send them to jail," he added.

Brig. Gen. John Walker Sessums, Jr., newly appointed commander of the 13th U. S. Air Force in Clark Field, called on the President to pay his respects. He was accompanied to Malacañan by Maj. Gen. E. "Mickey" Moore, his predecessor who had been appointed deputy chief of staff of the Far Eastern Command in Tokyo. The President also received British Minister Frank S. Gibbs who called to present his new credentials in accordance with a tradition in the United Kingdom foreign ministry when a change of sovereignty occurs. In presenting his credentials signed by the new Queen of England, Minister Gibbs renewed his pledge to continue working for strengthening friendly ties between his country and the Philippines. The President thanked the English minister for the invitation extended to the Philippine government to send its representative to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Assurance was given that the Philippines would send a representative to London to witness the forthcoming coronation.

October 7:

The Cabinet approved to bolster the tourist trade in the Philippines to bring into the country dollars and at the same time advertise the Philippines abroad. This cabinet action is timed to encourage visitors to see the Philippine International Fair which will be held in Manila from February 1 to April 30, 1953. The President designated

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Joaquin M. Elizalde and Secretary of Commerce and Industry Cornelio Balmaceda to draft the rules and regulations which would encourage tourism. They will also study the feasibility of exempting tourists coming to the country from visa requirements.

The President informed the Cabinet of his desire to have the Quezon and the Roxas memorials completed before the end of 1953. He inquired from Secretary of Public works Pablo Lorenzo about the status of these two memorial projects. He also directed Secretary Lorenzo and Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose Camus to rush the completion of the Botanical Gardens at Plaza Lawton.

October 8:

At a prolonged conference in Malacañan In the morning, the President instructed Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque to lay the ground for the forthcoming defense talks with top American officials to be held in Manila on October 24. The AFP chief of Mal war directed to prepare all papers necessary for the Lop level talks on Philippine defense and regional security in this area.

October 9:

The President gave a luncheon at Malacañan in honor of Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Ernest "Mickey" Moore and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. John Walker Sessums, Jr. General Moore, commander of the 13th Airforce at Clark Field, is leaving the next day for his new assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff in Tokyo. General Sessums succeeds General Moore as Commander of the 13th Airforce at Clark Field. The President also took occasion to welcome CoL William L. Lee and his wife who arrived at Clark Field about six weeks ago.

October 10:

The President conferred for two hours in the morning with Foreign Affairs secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on preparations for the forthcoming four-day defense talks with ranking Washington officials to start on October 24. During the conference which begun at 9 a.m. at the President's study in the Palace, the chief Executive went over reports just received from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo which mentioned the departure from Washington of the U. S. representatives and their subsequent arrival in Manila where the talks will be held.

October 11:

The President signed Executive Order No. 535 abolishing visa fees for tourists in order to promote Philippine tourist trade and encourage foreign visitors to the forthcoming International Fair In Manila, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. To carry out the provisions of this executive order, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs is authorized to enter into agreements, by exchange of notes, with the authorized representatives of countries which are willing to grant the same concessions to Philippine citizens desiring to visit such countries for a temporary period of stay. (See pp 4215-4216, for full text of the executive order.)

Following a 20minute conference with representatives of the MSA, PHILCUSA, the Departments of Public Works and Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the National Planning Commission, the President ordered the immediate construction of a 35kilometer road traversing Montalban and Tanay, Rizal, for the purpose of opening about 20,000 hectares of virgin lands in the eastern part of the province for settlement and cultivation. The plan calls for the preliminary installation of temporary bridges and the subdivision of public lands along the new road into 10hectare lots for distribution to the landless. The project, patterned after similar roadbuilding projects in Mindanao, would entail an expense of some ₱2 million.

Malacañan announced that Executive Secretary Marciano Roque had turned over to Judge Salvador Esguerra, head of the Malacañan legal office, the investigation of the charges of alleged irregularities in th Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office.

Representative Jose S. Corpuz of Nueva Ecija formally submitted the petition signed by 56 solons, 10 of whom are Nacionalistas, urging the President to release funds for urgently needed public works projects in their respective provinces. The solons who called on the President with Representative Corpuz told the Chief Executive that the calling of a special session would only mean a waste of time and money with no assurance of beneficial results. The President promised to study their petition thoroughly. He, however, intimated that if he ever authorize the release of public works funds through an executive order, he would give priority to regions where the funds are urgently needed, such as typhoon stricken areas and other needy provinces.

October 13:

The President had a long conference in the morning with officials of the Mutual Security Administration on the program of the Philippine government regarding health and educational matters. The MSA officials who conferred with the President at Malacañan were Dr. Paul R. Hanan, education division director; Dr. Horace P. Di Lien, public health division director; and Dr. John Goltmen, hospital rehabilitation and supply officer of MSA's public health division. They were accompanied to Malacañan by Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, director of the Philippine General Hospital.

At noon, the President received a delegation of 16 Liberal mayors and some civic leaders of Batangas who presented a written petition to the Chief Executive inviting him to visit Batangas. The 16 mayors who formally submitted the written petition pointed out that inasmuch as they represented the majority of mayors in Batangas, which has a total of 27 municipalities, their petition "fairly reflects the sentiment of our people." The written petition read in part: "We believe in your administration and in the progress which the Philippines has achieved under it and to that end we have geared our efforts. In such a frame of mind do the people of Batangas await your visit."

October 14:

The Cabinet approved the sale of 2,600,000 gantas of rice at ₱.90 a ganta provided the sale would be made direct to the consumers and not through dealers. Administrator of Economic Coordination Mariano Jesus Cuenco reported to the Cabinet during the Cabinet meeting that his office was endorsing favorably the decision of the board of directors of the NARIC to sell to the public 6,500 tons of 2,600,000 gantas of imported rice at ₱.90 a ganta. He pointed out, however, that it would be necessary to exempt the NARIC from the payment of the 2 per cent import license fee, and reduce the interest which the NARIC pays for loans to the bank from 6 per cent to 3 per cent. The Cabinet decided that the exemption from the 2 per cent license fee should be made in favor of the NARIC and not of the importer. If rice had been brought to the country by an importer there should be an agreement that the 2 per cent exemption is credited to the NARIC so that the government corporation should profit by it instead of the importers.

The President issued Proclamation No. 344, designating the period from October 15 to November 30, 1952, for the fourth annual fund campaign of the Community Chest in Greater Manila. He also issued Proclamation No 343, declaring October 30 this year as special public holiday in the Province of Leyte to commemorate the anniversary of the landing, of the U. S. forces of liberation on the shores of that province in 1944.

The President, directed Executive Secretary Marciano Roque during the Cabinet meeting, not to allow the arrest of any employee in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office by the Blue Ribbon Committee of the Senate. He said that if the Committee believes that what it is doing in ordering the arrest of Philippine Charity employees is legal, the Blue Ribbon should go to court.

October 15:

In his 48th monthly radio chat, the President inferentially accused the Nacionalistas of ignoring the existence of "this government and its instrumentalities." He lashed at the decision of Nacionalista representatives in the Council of State and the National Defense Council to boycott a joint meeting of the two bodies earlier this day. "This is the body to which they should appear because they are officially compelled to attend and participate in the discussion of high policies of state," the President said. "Don't they recognize the existence of this government and its instrumentalities?" he asked. He hurled charges of "tyranny" and "despotism" at the Senate for threatening "to cow

public officials and employees to submit to investigations conducted even by committees not authorized to function during recess.' (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 43174322, for full text of the radio chat.)

The state of the nation's internal and external security was discussed in detail at the joint meeting of the Council of State and the National Security Council, the country's leading advisory bodies. For two hours, top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines took turns to present to the joint meeting a clear picture of the country's internal and external defenses. Those who spoke were National Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, AFP Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, and Chief of the Army's Planning Board Col. Leoncio Tan. But for the conspicuous absence of Nacionalista representatives, there was full attendance of the National Security Council and the Council of State.

The President took a personal hand in the investigation of the charges of alleged anomalies against three employees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes in the course of the resumption of the investigation being conducted by Judge Salvador Esguerra at Malacañan. The President wanted to go deep into the matter and he invited the witnesses present and those to be called not to hesitate to say everything they knew no matter who gets hurt. "I will not hesitate to impose the corresponding penalty on the guilty party or parties," he said. Owing to lack of time, the President was unable to proceed with his personal probe because he had to deliver his radio chat at 7 p.m. He announced, however, that he will convene the witnesses again at 10 a.m. the next morning to hear their testimonies.

October 16:

Malacañan announced that the President had authorized the release of a total of ₱45,000,000 for the maintenance and improvement of existing national and provincial roads. This sum comes from the Motor Vehicle Fund and the Highway Special Fund otherwise known as the Gasoline Tax Fund. The estimated collection from these two sources for the fiscal year 1952-1953 is expected to reach a minimum of ₱65 million. Of the amount of ₱45,500,000, 70 per cent is being actually ordered released to provinces and cities throughout the Philippines. The maintenance and improvement of existing national and provincial roads, particularly the repair of roads damaged by typhoons and floods in the past months are not only to be resumed but what is more important, such maintenance and improvement will be undertaken with vigor and without letup until July, 1953, when the present fiscal year ends, according to Malacañan.

The President called upon all officials and employees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office who might have knowledge of any irregularity to go direct to him so that he might be better informed of actual conditions obtaining in their office and to enable him to decide impartially the charges against PCS officials. At the start of the investigations he was personally conducting at Malacañan's Council of State room, he urged all PCS personnel to take him into their confidence and come forward with whatever vital information they might have. He said it is for their own benefit that charges against certain officials be decided impartially and without unnecessary delay in order to dispel as soon as possible any suspicion that might have been cast upon the whole office as a result of the charges. The President suspended his inquiries on the PCS personnel until 4 p.m. as he wanted to study first the report of the Integrity Board on its investigation of PCS officials. He continued questioning officials and employees of the PCS from 5:30 to 6:50 p.m. in his Executive Office. Ten out of 15, officials and employees due for questioning by the President were able to testify. They were questioned individually and alone by the President in his Executive Office.

October 17:

The President conferred for two hours with Maj. Gen. Albert Pierson, JUSMAG chief, on the new needs of the Philippines in the form of military assistance from the U. S. The President has now accumulated sufficient material for the forthcoming defense talks following joint State Council and National Security Council meeting at Malacañan on October 15 last, preparatory to the forthcoming talks with top-ranking American Defense and State Department representatives due in Manila the coming week.

October 18:

The President received a large group of congressmen who called to congratulate him on the “very timely” release of ₱45,500,000 from the motor vehicle and special highway funds for the maintenance and improvement of existing national and provincial roads. He informed the solons that he had already ordered the Department of Public Works to start immediately on provincial projects so that the jobless could get employment in the construction work.

About 12:30 p.m., the President inaugurated the long distance telephone line between Manila and San Fernando, La Union. He used the telephone at his Executive Office where he was then busy receiving callers while Governor Juan Carbonell took the call at San Fernando’s beach resort on Miramonte. He told Governor Carbonell not to hesitate to contact him by telephone at Malacañan whenever he had an urgent report to make.

The President resumed the investigation of Charity Sweepstakes officials in the current probe of alleged irregularities in the PCS. He questioned for almost an hour Melencio Yutuc, chief accountant of the PCS. He was unable to talk to other principal witnesses because of lack of time. The probe will continue next week.

October 19:

Malacañan announced that the President will create shortly a national traffic commission to help enforce the traffic laws, rules, and regulations to curb motor accidents which have been causing mounting losses in human lives and damage to property. Recently the President directed the Public Service Commission to take the necessary measures to avoid, loss of human lives due traffic accidents. The President was alarmed by newspaper reports of increasing number of motor vehicle accidents.

About 10:30 a.m., the President held what he called “routine consultation” with the top brass of the Army. Present at the conference were Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay; Major General Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Jesus Vargas and Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano; Commodore Jose Francisco, Philippine Navy chief; and Col. Benito Ebuena, Air Force chief.

The President crossed the Pasig River at 5 p.m., to attend the pet show and international tea under the auspices of the women’s division of the 1952 anti-TB fund drive. He distributed the prizes for the best dog performance, the best dog, the best cat, the best monkey, and the unique pet, a native squirrel from Palawan.

October 20:

The President called upon the nation anew to guard its freedom, as he led the country in commemorating the historic landing of the American forces in Leyte eight years ago. He said in his message, “Today, democracy is more alive in the Philippines than ever before, opinions to the contrary notwithstanding.” He cautioned the people to be ever alert to the new threats to our freedom which “if carried out would nullify all our gains since Leyte.” (See page 4323, for full text of the message).

The President began the day by hearing a requiem mass said at the Palace chapel in commemoration of the birthday of his late Wife. In the evening, he visited the remains of the late Msgr. Gabriel M. Reyes, archbishop of Manila, at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong where the prelate’s body lies in state. He condoled with the family of the Archbishop.

October 21:

Malacañan sustained the right of a municipal board or city council to enact an ordinance to tax, fix the license fee for, regulate the business, and fix the location of the storage and sale of oil, gasoline, petroleum, or any other products thereof. This ruling upholds the city council of Cagayan de Oro, Oriental Misamis, which enacted an ordinance imposing a tax on every liter of gasoline and oil sold and distributed in that City. The legality of the ordinance was raised by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company through its counsel—Ross, Selph, Carrascoso, and Janda. The Standard Vacuum Oil Company contends that their contracts for delivery of oil which are made in other

towns outside Cagayan de Oro but which are delivered from the company's bulk plant at Bugo, which is within the jurisdiction of Cagayan de Oro, should not pay the tax imposed by the City council.

The President, after consultation with the Cabinet, signed Executive Order No. 536, creating the National Traffic Commission as an advisory body in the enforcement of traffic laws, rules, and regulations. The Commission is to be composed of the Secretary of Public Works, as chairman, and the Chief of the Motor Vehicles Office, the Deputy Chief of the PC, the Chief of Police of Manila, a representative of the Public Service Commission, the presidents of the Manila Rotary Club, Manila Lions Club, Manila Junior Chamber of Commerce, NALATROA, and Philippine Motor Association or their respective representatives, the executive director of the Philippine Safety Council or his representative, and an official or employee of the Department of Public Works and Communications, as members.

Following receipts of an official copy of the decision handed down by Judge Agustin Montesa of the court of first instance of Manila acquitting Lt. Col. Celestino Juan of the charge filed against him by Mayor Arsenio Lacson for which he had been suspended, the President ordered the reinstatement of the Manila deputy chief of police. The order of reinstatement was coursed through Mayor Lacson and was effective immediately upon receipts of the order by Col. Juan.

In the evening, the President entertained senators at a dinner given in honor of Senators Vicente Madrigal and Geronima T. Pecson who are scheduled to leave the country to attend international conferences abroad. Senator Madrigal had been appointed delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in New York while Senator Pecson is chairman of the Philippine delegation to the forthcoming UNESCO conferences in Paris.

October 22:

The President issued Proclamation No. 347, declaring the tenth day of December every year as Human Rights Day in commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. He also issued Executive Order No. 537, condoning 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes on real property located in the western side of Lacas Road in Mambajac, Oriental Misamis, and Proclamation No. 346, designating a 30-day period starting November 15 and ending December 15 as the period for the National Fund Campaign of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in places outside Manila

The Cabinet authorized Squires E. Bingham. and Company, a Filipino firm which had long been engaged as dealers of sporting goods and firearms, to engage in the local manufacture of rifles, pistols, revolver barrels, and other firearms spare parts. The establishment of this factory was favorably endorsed by the Chief of the PC, Chief of Staff of the AFP, and the the Secretary of National Defense. In authorizing the company to undertake the local manufacture of flrearms and spare parts, the Cabinet has adopted a set of rules calculated to guard against the products of the company from falling into wrong hands. Its products shad be sold only to the Army and to those who are duly authorized by the Chief of the Constabulary to purchase them.

In the morning, the President conferred with officials of the People's or Homesite Corporation, Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, Faustino Reyes, and Earl Carroll and Ramon V. del Rosario, president and vice president respectively of the Philippine American Life Insurance Company, who submitted for approval their company's 7-million housing project in Quezon City. Located on a 45-hectare lot on Highway 54, the project calls for the construction of 60.0 concrete bungalows to be sold to families of moderate income on an easy installment plan. The bungalows with two bedrooms built on at least 300-square meter lots, will be equipped with necessary modern faëibties, according to Mr. Carroll.

Early in the afternoon, the President conferred at length with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on the composition of the Philippine delegation to the forthcoming conference with top U. S. defense officials. It was learned that the delegation will consist of seven members like the American delegation with Secretary Elizalde as head of the Philippine group.

City Mayor Marcial Rañola of Legaspi City reported to Malacañan that Legaspi City was severely hit the previous night by typhoon Trix. About 90 per cent of the houses were reported to be totally or partially destroyed and

thousands of people, rendered homeless and without food. Executive Secretary Marciano Roque requested Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez to send 50 sacks of rice on the first available transportation. Mrs. Perez wired the Legaspi branch of the SWA to give the necessary shelter and building materials to typhoon victims. Secretary Roque asked the Philippine National Red Cross to synchronize its relief activities with the Social Welfare Administration. The Department of National Defense was also requested to make available all planes to transport all necessary relief materials to all stricken areas.

The President signed the appointment of Luis F. Reyes as president of the Philippine College of Commerce, formerly Philippine School of Commerce, which had been elevated to college status with the enactment of Republic Act No. 778 during the last regular session of Congress. The appointment of Reyes was made on the basis of the unanimous indorsement of the board of trustees of the institution. Reyes was until the change of status of the PSC the superintendent of the institution.

October 23:

The President instructed Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo, Jr., in his capacity as chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross, to direct relief work in the typhoon devastated areas. Secretary Salcedo will coordinate all relief work to be given by government agencies, including the PNRC and the Social Welfare Administration. PAF planes were dispatched at noon this day to typhoon stricken areas in the Bicol region, especially Albay.

The President issued Executive Order No. 538, requiring all government offices and instrumentalities, including government owned and controlled corporations, the armed forces, government hospitals, and public educational institution to purchase all their rice requirements from the NARIC whenever possible. The order was issued in view of the policy of the government to patronize commodities sold by corporations owned or controlled by it.

In a speech delivered in the evening before the members of the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Polo Club on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the UN, the President reiterated his faith in the United Nations and said that this world organization is "still the best means to help achieve our purpose of peace, freedom, and security." The UN has not as yet solved the Korean war, or the control and manufacture of atomic energy, or found an acceptable formula for the reduction of armaments, the President observed, but, he added, it is the best possible means at hand with which to meet the problems that face the world today. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 43234328, for full text of the speech.)

October 24:

The President joined thousands of Catholics in paying their last tribute to Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes whose remains were deposited in their last resting place at San Miguel Pro-Cathedral early in the morning. He laid a wreath on the Archbishop's tomb at the left wing of the church.

Following consultation with members of his Cabinet, the President announced that he would call a special session of Congress to take up the public works bill. The special session will last for five days, starting November 3. Executive Secretary Marciano Roque was instructed to notify Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Speaker Eugenio Perez of the President's decision to call a special meeting of Congress starting November 3. During the Cabinet meeting, the President appointed Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola as chairman of the 1953 Fourth of July Committee. This appointment was made early to enable Secretary Montinola to complete the construction of the two wings of the Quirino grandstand on the Luneta before the Independence Day celebration.

In an informal talk during the tea party at Malacañan this day, the President told newspapermen that his criteria in the distribution of public works funds would be on the basis of urgency of individual projects as a result of public calamities like the recent typhoons, floods, etc. He said the public works bill contains only selected projects, stressing that the public works bill is different from the pork barrel. He told the newsmen that he had decided to call a special session upon the request of legislative leaders. He endorsed all typhoon reports to Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, who was instructed to incorporate them in the public works bill to determine the needs of provinces hit by the recent storm.

October 25:

Following a conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde shortly after noon, the President announced the panels for the Philippines and the United States in the toplevel defense conference scheduled to start on October 27. The Philippine panel is composed of Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde as chairman; Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay; Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Speaker Eugenio Perez, as members of the Council of State and National Security Council; Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque and Brig. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff respectively of the AFP; Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, PC Chief; Commodore Jose Francisco, Chief of the Philippine Navy; Col. Benito Ebuena, Chief of the Philippine Air Force; and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Felino Neri.

The U. S. panel is composed of U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance; Hon. William C. Foster, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Hon. John M. Allison, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs; Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Commander in Chief of the U. S. Pacific Fleet; Rear Admiral Richard Cruzen, Commander of the U. S. Naval Forces in the Philippines; Maj. Gen. Albert Pierson, Chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group; Brig. Gen. John Walker Sessums, Jr., Commander of Clark Air Force Base; William S. B. Lacy, Counselor of the U. S. Embassy and Deputy Chief of Mission in Manila; Hon. Frank C. Nash, Assistant Secretary of Defense; and Carl R. Bendtsen, Consultant and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

The President dispatched in the morning four of his cabinet members to make a firsthand investigation and help direct relief in the Bicol region which was devastated by typhoon Trix. Secretary of Public Works Pablo Lorenzo, Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez, and Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose S. Camus flew to Legaspi in a PAL plane at 7 a.m., and Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay left in another plane later in the day to carry out the President's orders.

The President promised to extend all possible government assistance to protect the poor farmers currently living and working in the government-owned Tambobong estate who are being ejected by tenants who had acquired certain rights over some portions of the property. Some 500 tenants of Tambobong estate marched to Malacañan in the morning to complain that some absentee tenants are allegedly blocking the purchase by subtenants of lots they have occupied for many years. They said that out of the 1,200 tenants, 411 are not staying in the Tambobong estate and are just absentee landlords who have subleased their lots and are now obstructing the sale of lots to the subtenants.

October 26:

At a cocktail party given in the evening at Malacañan in honor of the delegates of the League of Philippine Architects who were holding a convention in Manila, the President spurred the architects of the country to greater activity in their task of contributing to the building of a new Philippines. He said: "We are now marshalling all the forces and resources of the Government, trying to pool all the intellects, all the genius, and all the inspiration and vision of our people in an effort to coordinate all our capabilities so that we may be able to undertake the great task of nation building more effectively."

October 27:

The President issued Proclamation No. 348, calling Congress to a five-day special session commencing at 10 a.m. on November 4 to provide for essential and urgent public works projects "particularly those that were destroyed or damaged by recent floods and typhoons or other calamities." He also issued Proclamation No. 349, proclaiming the existence of a public calamity in the provinces devastated by typhoon Trix. By this proclamation the provisions of Act No. 4164 which "prohibits and penalizes the hoarding of palay, rice, corn, building or construction materials, and the other necessities of life," are declared to be in full force and effect. (See pp. 4231-4232, for full texts of the proclamations.)

Representatives of the governments of the Philippines and the United States met in Malacañan to discuss political and military matters of mutual interest in the Pacific area. The President, who presided in the conference, outlined the desire of the Government of the Philippines to make the greatest possible common contribution to assure the

freedom and security of the Pacific and to prevent the further spread of Communism. Ambassador Spruance expressed the importance that the United States attaches to its traditional relationship with the Philippines and the spirit of mutual cooperation and friendship which has always prevailed between the two countries.

October 28:

After the oath taking of the members of the National Traffic Commission in the Council of State room in the afternoon, the President instructed the Commission to study a proposal to suspend until further notice the issuing of temporary or permanent permits for the operation of public utility buses, to remedy the confusion and congestion on the highways and curb the mounting accidents causing serious physical injury and loss of many lives

The Cabinet turned down the proposal of a private company for permission to barter scrap metal or iron from the Philippines for pig iron and equipment from Japan. This proposal was studied by the Office of Economic Coordination which recommended its disapproval by the Cabinet

During the Cabinet meeting the President directed the Cabinet members who made a survey of the typhoon areas in Lie Bicol Region to prepare their estimates of financial requirements for the reconstruction, and repair of public works, public buildings, and school houses in those places. The estimated amount will be embodied in the public works bill to be taken up in the special five-day session of Congress starting on November 4. He also directed Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez and Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., to submit their estimate of the amount required for the relief of typhoon victims. Their estimates will be embodied either in a special relief bill or in a deficiency bill.

The heirs of the late Dee C. Chuan, Chinese businessman, presented to the Office of the President a check for ₱5,000 as replenishment for the Dee C. Chuan Memorial (scholarship) Fund being administered by Malacañan. This latest amount brings the scholarship total to ₱30,000. The scholarship being administered by Malacañan are "devoted to the education of deserving sons and daughters of dead or disabled veterans of the Second World War along vocational and/or agricultural lines." Recipients are selected through yearly competitive examinations prepared and conducted by the Bureau of Civil Service in Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga and Baguio.

October 29:

The President signed three executive orders reducing taxes on real property located in several municipalities in Samar, Leyte, and Romblon to help people in those areas who were victims of typhoons Wanda and Amy which hit eastern Visayas in 1951. A similar order is being studied for the towns which were heavily hit by typhoon Trix in the Bicol region. On the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, the reduction by 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes on real property in several municipalities in Samar, Leyte, and Romblon was ordered by the President, on condition that all unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to previous years and the remaining taxes of 50 per cent in 1952 shall be paid on or before December 31, 1952.

The President also signed *ad interim* appointments of three new consuls of the Philippines in order to effect shifts in the Department of Foreign Affairs. The three new *ad interim* consuls are Felipe Mabilangan assigned to New Delhi to replace Jose Moreno, Hortencio Brillantes assigned to Seattle in place of Melquiades Ibanes, and Dr. Generoso Provido, assigned to Sydney, Australia, vice Tiburcio Baja. Jose Moreno is shifted to Tokyo to take the place of Borromeo Busuego who is replacing Brillantes as head of the political and cultural division of the home office in Manila. Melquiades Ibanes is joining the Philippine Mission in the United Nations in New York City, while Tiburcio Baja is replacing Minister Jose Imperial as first secretary and consul of the Philippine Embassy in Djakarta, Indonesia.

After consultation with the Cabinet, the President set aside 153,000 hectares of public lands in Cotabato for settlement of surrendered or captured Huks. The Economic Development Corps (EDCOR) of the army will prepare the area and distribute them as farm and home lots to the increasing number of Huks surrendering to the government.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of a new company, the Philippine Salt Development Syndicate, to go into largescale production of salt in the Philippines, both for domestic use and for export. The Cabinet approval of the proposal is in line with its policy to encourage establishment of industries in the country in order to increase production and solve the unemployment problem.

The President held a long conference with officials of the Land Settlement and Development Corporation to discuss the projected opening, up of new settlements in Luzon for the purpose of relieving congestion and the acute unemployment problem in Manila and the surrounding provinces. The President said that the opening of new settlements in Luzon would facilitate the development of some untilled areas and at the same time deprive dissidents of some of their favorite strongholds. The proposed sites of these new settlements are in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, and Cagayan. Many people in Luzon are reluctant to go to Mindanao and settle on the rich agricultural lands there cleared by the government for settlers.

By virtue of Executive Order No. 543 signed by the President, the new municipality of Lambayong is created in Cotabato upon the recommendation of the provincial board. The new municipality consists of 32 barrios formerly belonging to the municipality of Dulawan. The seat of the new municipal government will be in the former barrio of Lambayong.

The President did not give any order for the release of two months' advance pay to government employees in the typhoonstricken areas in the Bicol region, according to a Malacañan spokesman who denied a story in a morning daily. What actually happened was that the President told the Mayor of Legaspi City, in a telephone conversation regarding the authority to pay advance salaries, that he had no objection provided the Auditor General was agreeable. In a letter addressed to Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez denied another newspaper report to the effect that he, Auditor General Gimenez, said that "the President has no more emergency powers." He said that the General Auditing Office disapproved the payment of the two months' advance salaries because there is no law authorizing it. Their decision did not touch on the President's emergency powers, Gimenez explained.

October 31:

The President ordered the suspension of Manila City Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, effective immediately. The order was signed at 11:30 a.m. and was dispatched immediately to the City Hall by messenger. Copy of the order was furnished City Vice Mayor Bartolome Gatmaitan so that he could assume office immediately. The President received from the Department of Justice in the morning the papers on the criminal case for libel filed in court by Judge Agustin Montesa against Mayor Lacson.

The President issued Proclamation No. 350, declaring Saturday November 1, 1952, a special public holiday to give the people, "ample time to observe the day in all its religious fervor. In declaring this year's All Saints' Day as a special public holiday, the President said that "paying homage to the dead on All Saints' Day is one of the cherished traditions of the Filipino people."

During the brief Cabinet meeting in the evening, the President instructed the Public Service Commission to suspend action on all applications for certificates of public convenience in Manila and suburbs, unless public interest urgently requires otherwise. The presidential directive came in the wake of the publication of gruesome pictures of the latest traffic accident in the afternoon papers this day, and in conformity with the recommendation of the newly created National Traffic Commission.

The Cabinet meeting was adjourned shortly before 7 p.m. to enable the President to deliver his address before the Boy Scouts at the Malacañan social hall. Keynoting the start of the 1952 observance of Boy Scouts Week with an address delivered before national scouting officials and Manila boy scouts, the President declared that "the Boy Scout movement in this country and . . . "in the whole world, have built a tradition of heroism and sacrifice and service that has proved equal to the hardest and most difficult crisis— national and international." He called the scouting movement in the Philippines "one of the most important things that have happened to us as a people and nation."

Following his Boy Scout Foundation Day address beamed to scouters throughout the country from Malacañan's social hall, the President also launched the Community Chest campaign this year in another radio speech broadcast by all stations throughout the country at 8 o'clock the same evening. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 43284330, for full texts of the speeches delivered by the President this day.)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: November, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

November 1:

The President led the nation in the traditional observance of All Saints' Day. He ordered that wreaths be sent early in his name to the tombs of President Quezon, Mrs. Quezon, President Roxas, the Victims of Fort Santiago, the Unknown Soldier, the Veterans of the Revolution, and to the National Cemetery at Fort McKinley. At 11: 50 a.m., the Chief Executive together with his children and aides motored to the Manila North Cemetery to visit the tombs of President Quezon and members of his family and the tomb of President Roxas. The presidential party then proceeded to the San Pedro Makati cemetery, arriving there at 12:35 p.m. They went directly to the lot where the President's wife, three children (Armando, Norma, and Fe), and four other relatives are interred.

November 2:

The President ordered the release of ₱589,405 as aid to some 15 provincial hospitals to insure their efficient operation during the ensuing months. Getting the lion's share in the outlay is the Zamboanga Hospital with an allotment of ₱105,490. The amount released will make possible the granting of the minimum wage to some members of the hospitals' staffs who have been receiving salaries below the minimum wage set by law.

November 3:

In his message sent to Congress this day, the President proposed the appropriation of ₱33,880,000 for urgent and essential projects. The proposal is contained in a public works bill he submitted to Congress for enactment during its special session. A total of ₱30 million will be appropriated from the general fund and ₱3,880,000 from the port works fund for urgent and essential public works. The sum of ₱16,129,500 was recommended by the President for emergency projects, particularly in typhoon-stricken areas and in other sections which have been destroyed by other calamities.

November 4:

Malacañan announced presidential approval for the release of ₱3,000 from the Saturday Races Fund of the Sweepstakes Office as aid for the rehabilitation of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of the Deaf, Inc. The Association is taking care of 364 deaf mutes, 120 of whom are residents of Manila. Of the 120, only 40 are employed. The expenditure of the released sum will be under the supervision of the Social Welfare Administration Office.

The Cabinet approved the creation of a finance committee to study and devise ways and means of financing the drainage of Manila and suburbs in order to control floods. The committee will be composed of Undersecretary of Public Works Vicente Orosa, as chairman; a representative each of the Central Bank, the Manila Realtors Association, the Home Owners Association of Manila, and the Department of Finance, the City Engineer of Manila, the Chief of the Flood Control Commission, an engineer of the Bureau of Public Works, and the Chairman of the RFC or his representative, as members. The systematization of the settlement of public lands under the responsibility of the LASEDECO and the early disposition of the Buri reservation in Nueva Ecija were also approved by the Cabinet.

A joint congressional committee called at Malacañan at 11 a.m. to notify the President officially that the two Houses of Congress had already been convened in response to his call for a special session. The President impressed upon the members of the joint committee the necessity of enacting the public works bill he had submitted to Congress without much loss of time, as further delay in the carrying out of urgent projects would retard the economic recovery of the nation.

In the course of the social call at Malacañan of Lewis K. Gough, National commander of the American Legion, the President signed Proclamation No. 351, designating November 16 of every year as Filipino Veterans Day, "a day for a get-together of all veterans in the Philippines." Commander Gough told the President of the latest development in the Korean front. "We are not losing ground," he said.

November 5:

The President authorized the release of ₱350,000 for the construction and improvement of shore protection works for eight provinces; namely, Rizal, Cavite, Cebu, Davao, Leyte, Quezon, Sorsogon, and Samar.

The third week of December of every year is to be observed as aviation week by virtue of Proclamation No. 352, issued by the President this day "in order to make the people appreciate the vital role of aviation in the progress and security of the nation."

In a two-hour breakfast conference with C. Tylor Wood, associate deputy director of the MSA in Washington; Theodore Tannewald, Jr., assistant director for mutual security and chief of staff to W. Averill Harriman; and Dr. Roland R. Renne, the President received assurance that equipment needed in carrying out the economic development program of the country would be given priority. Wood expressed great satisfaction over the success of the Philippine government in balancing its budget and in strengthening its economy. He also informed the President he was highly satisfied with the progress of the work being undertaken here jointly by the PHILCUSA and the MSA.

The President cabled his "warmest congratulations" to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower on his election as President of the United States. The cable was sent after the President had heard the direct broadcast from the United States that Governor Adlai Stevenson had conceded the election to General Eisenhower.

A 200-man delegation from Mindanao, composed mostly of Zamboangueños residing in Manila, trooped to Malacañan in the afternoon to express their gratitude to the President for the concern he has shown for Mindanao, particularly for designating Secretary Pablo Lorenzo as a member of his official family. In response, the President said that all he wanted them to do is to remember that the President really pioneered in the new Philippine ideology so that the development of Mindanao would no longer remain an idealism but a reality and so that the Philippines would become a self-sustaining republic that must endure. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4760-4762, for full text of the President's extemporaneous remarks.)

November 6:

The President created a committee on the rehabilitation of Fort Santiago. The committee will execute the provisions of the law passed on March 6, 1951, declaring Fort Santiago a national shrine and to provide for the preservation of historical landmarks in the Walled City. The committee is composed of Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo as chairman, Juan Arellano, Manuel Gonzales, Carlos D'Silva, General Emilio Aguinaldo, Juan Nakpil, Antonio Toledo, Federico Ilustre, and Ramon del Rosario, as members.

The President directed Gov. Leopoldo A. Diaz of Nueva Ecija to make all open public agricultural lands in his province available to the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement in line with the social amelioration program of the administration. The directive was given in the course of the President's breakfast conference with the Nueva Ecija governor and the officials of the PRRM. Nueva Ecija had been selected by the PRRM as the pilot province for the implementation of the administration's program of social amelioration.

The President suspended anew Lt. Col. Celestino Juan as deputy chief of police of Manila upon receipt of the papers from the Department of Justice on the criminal case against him filed by the office of the city fiscal with the court of first instance of Manila. The new criminal case filed against Colonel Juan is for falsification of public documents. Juan's suspension took effect immediately upon his receipt of the suspension order sent to him by messenger at noon.

November 7:

The President started the day by working on a new relief bill recommending the appropriation of ₱8,567,600 for immediate aid to provinces, chartered cities, and municipalities visited by earthquakes, droughts, typhoons, floods, and other calamities. Assisted by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, the President also drafted an accompanying message which was sent with the new bill to Congress early in the afternoon.

November 8:

In order to prepare the country for the social impact of technological change as a result of the Philippine industrialization and economic development program, the Cabinet decided to send Dr. Joaquin Marañon, acting director of the Institute of Science and Technology, to the UNESCO regional conference of experts of Southeast Asia on the social impact of technological change. The conference is scheduled to begin on December 8, 1952, in Bangkok, and it will last for eight days. The Cabinet also decided to send Philippine technical men abroad to prepare them for their role in the country's economic development program. A soil technologist and an animal husbandry man are being sent out to gather the latest techniques on soil conservation and animal breeding. An agreement with FAC was also approved that the Philippines may avail of the services of experts in rice breeding to come to the country from time to time to help bolster the local rice production.

Following a two-hour conference with Speaker Perez at Malacañan in the morning, the President decided not to extend the current five-day session of Congress. Present at the conference were House Majority Floor Leader Raul T. Leuterio, Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, Representatives Jose M. Aldeguer of Iloilo, Estanislao Fernandez of Laguna, and Enrique Medina of Negros Oriental.

November 9:

Some 2,000 Ilocano residents in Manila, and officials from the Northern provinces gathered at Malacañan Park for a whole-day celebration of *Amianan* (North) Day. Anticipating the crowded program which marks the President's birthday, Ilocano residents in the city celebrated *Amianan* Day in his honor, one week ahead of his natal day. Touched by this demonstration of love and loyalty, the President said that the people of Ilocos are full of understanding even when they feel they had been at times neglected. The President's brief remarks in Ilocano drew an enthusiastic applause when he hinted that he might need their support in the coming year.

November 10:

The President immediately cancelled all his appointments for the day upon being informed of his eldest brother's death. Atty. Ernesto Quirino died of heart attack early this morning at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in old Sta. Mesa. The President took the news hard but bravely, upon being informed of the sad news by his brothers, Judge Antonio Quirino and Ilocos Sur Governor Eliseo Quirino.

The President reappointed Roberto Gianzon as *ad interim* Undersecretary of Justice. He also approved Pasay Mayor Primitivo Lovina's application for indefinite leave of absence and designated Vice Mayor Pablo Cuneta as acting mayor of Pasay City.

November 11:

After consultation with the Cabinet, the President signed two executive orders providing funds for urgent and essential public works and for relief in the provinces and cities recently visited by typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic action, and other calamities. Executive Order No. 545 provides for a total of ₱37,850,500 for urgent public works. This will be used for maintenance of public buildings and permanent improvements, river control works, sea protection works, portworks, irrigation systems, airports, waterworks, and artesian wells; particularly hospitals, school-houses, and municipal buildings which need immediate repairs and reconstruction owing to damages wrought by recent typhoons and floods or other calamities. Executive Order No. 546 provides

₱11,367,600 for relief in the provinces and cities visited by typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic action, and other calamities. The President exercised his emergency powers in the release of these funds because Congress had failed in the last special session to approve legislations appropriating funds for relief and for urgent and essential public works.

The Cabinet approved the contract between the Philippine American Life Insurance Company and the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation for the setting up by the former of a ₱7 million model housing community in Quezon City. The project covers 45 hectares on Highway 54 near the projected multi-million pesos veterans' hospital and envisages the construction, of 600 two- and three-bedroom bungalows on lots averaging 400 square meters for moderate-income families.

The President accepted the invitation of organized labor to address the mammoth gratitude rally in connection with ceremonies marking the turnover of the Labor Hospital dedicated for the working masses. The rally will be held at Malacañan grounds on the afternoon of November 15, 1952, the eve of the President's 62nd birthday. Following a brief conference with Executive Secretary Roque, the President administered the oath of office to Pasay Vice Mayor Pablo Cuneta as acting mayor of Pasay City in place of Mayor Primitivo Lovina who had applied for an indefinite leave of absence. He also inducted Dr. Pascual Ignacio as Pasay vice mayor in place of Acting Mayor Cuneta, and later on he inducted Jose L. Guerrero as mayor of the newly created municipality of Lambayong, Cotabato.

The President signed in the morning Proclamation No. 353 designating the managing director of the DZFM as a member of the national committee on clean-up-week. This proclamation amends Proclamation No. 217 issued on November 3, 1952, designating the period from November 9 to 15 of each year as clean-up-week and creating committees for the proper observance of this period.

November 12:

Upon the request of Commonwealth Food, Inc., the President issued Executive Order No. 547, fixing the ceiling price of *Cafe Puro*, a locally manufactured coffee, at ₱1.35, wholesale, and ₱1.55, retail, of each bag containing one-half pound. For a bag of one pound of *Cafe Puro*, the wholesale price is fixed at ₱2.60 and the retail price is ₱2.95. The President also fixed the ceiling prices of Hereford brand of corned beef at ₱48.45 a case, wholesale price, and at ₱1.50 a tin, retail price. This is the first time ceiling prices have been fixed for these food products.

The President assured the family of Hadji Kamlon that the Moro outlaw leader, who had surrendered to the government, would be given a fair trial. He received Kamlon's father, Hadji Angsa, and the outlaw's wife, Adjuria, in Malacañan in the evening. Meanwhile, Kamlon remained aboard the navy boat which brought him and his family to Manila at 9:30 in the morning. The bandit chief will surrender formally to Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo, whom the President had designated as his personal representative, at 9 a.m. the following day.

November 13:

The Moro outlaw leader, Hadji Kamlon, formally surrendered to Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo who had been designated by the President as his personal representative to accept the surrender in the office of the Director of Prisons at Muntinlupa, Rizal. Castelo reassured Kamlon that the government would see to it that he would be brought before the courts as soon as possible, perhaps within two weeks, so that the charges pending against him would be resolved at a fair trial as promised to him by the President. The Moro outlaw arrived in Manila the previous day, accompanied by Col. Agustin Marking who effected his surrender. He will be under the custody of the Director of Prisons while awaiting trial.

November 14:

The President, in a move designed to extend application of the minimum wage law to the armed forces, directed Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to look into government savings with a view to increasing the base pay of enlisted men. "The law has been applied to all officials and employees of the national government," the President told the Cabinet during its meeting in the afternoon. "There is no reason why it should not be applied to the low-salaried

enlisted men in the armed forces.” Joven estimated that ₱3,500,000 was needed to maintain the proposed salary increases from November 15 this year to June, 1953. The President told Joven to see if this amount could be drawn from the savings of the government during the current fiscal year.

The President signed Proclamation No. 354, declaring the period from November 17 to 23 this year as national science week and creating a committee to take charge of its observance. The committee is composed of the Secretary of Health as chairman, and the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Education, the Director of Science and Technology, and the officers of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, as members.

After consultation with the Cabinet, the President designated Pedro K. Coronel as acting provincial treasurer of Antique during the suspension from office of the present incumbent. He also signed the appointment of Dr. Agustin L. Zarate as member of the board of dental examiners for a term of three years, vice Germanico Carreon whose term expires November 27, 1952.

November 15:

The President early in the morning paid his last homage to his late elder brother, Ernesto, the man who had helped and supported him during his student days. Accompanied by members of his family, he left the Palace about 7 a.m. and motored to the Espiritu Santo church where he heard the *requiem* mass said for the eternal repose of his brother's soul. He joined the funeral procession to the North Cemetery where Don Ernesto's body was laid to its last resting place. The President returned to Malacañan about 8:30 a.m.

In his 49th monthly radio chat on the eve of his 62nd birthday anniversary, the President blasted at his detractors for dumping on his lap the blame for the failure of Congress to provide funds for public works and relief to typhoon-stricken provinces. He directly charged Congress with “sterility” for failure to appropriate the much-needed public funds during the last five-day special session. He said the last special session of Congress was an opportunity to gauge political attitudes and “the absolute sterility of that session was one of my greatest disappointments in public life.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4765-4768, for full text of the radio chat.)

The President delivered one of his most significant gifts to the nation's workingmen when he cut the ceremonial ribbon to the ₱200,000–Quirino Labor Hospital at noon. The construction of the hospital was the result of the joint efforts of organized labor and management on one hand and the government on the other. One-half of the construction cost came from the proceeds of the labor festivals held the previous year in Manila. Feeling the need for looking after the health of the working man, the President sought the means to provide the balance of ₱100,000.

In the afternoon, a crowd of 100,000 jammed the Malacañan grounds to witness what was originally scheduled as the Quirino Labor Hospital turnover ceremonies but which turned into a huge labor birthday demonstration in honor of the President. Labor presented him with a huge *vapier-machecake*, lighted with 62 tiny bulbs. At the end of the vari-numbered program, the President voiced a ringing pledge that “as long as I live, you have a champion for a common cause.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4762-4765, for full text of the extemporaneous remarks of the President.)

On the eve of his 62nd birthday, the President authorized increases in the basic pay of enlisted men from the rank of private to corporal, in line with his policy of implementing for the armed forces the provisions of the minimum wage law. This the President announced immediately after delivering his regular radio chat in the evening, and forthwith he signed the papers authorizing the salary increases. The adjustment based on the actual strength of the armed forces will entail a yearly additional outlay of ₱4,690,958.96 or an additional outlay this fiscal year of ₱2,931,849.35 from November 16, 1952 to June 30, 1953.

November 16:

The President observed his 62nd birthday anniversary quietly. Because the family is in mourning, the President had to cancel or postpone all the gay affairs prepared in his honor by friends and admirers. He started the day by hearing

mass at the Palace chapel with members of his family, relatives, and close friends. Following the mass, he received hundreds of well-wishers who kept streaming in for two hours to wish him a happy birthday. The long line was headed by top ranking government officials, members of Congress and the judiciary, members of foreign diplomatic corps, top Filipino and American military officials, newsmen, and provincial delegations composed of municipal mayors headed by their respective governors from various parts of the country.

November 17:

Malacañan announced the Philippines is sending shortly a three-man delegation to observe the Chinese and the Japanese customs administration with a view to effecting improvement in the local customs bureau and clearing it of the backlog of unliquidated entries. The delegation will be composed of Montano A. Tejam, senior economist, in the Department of Finance; Rogaciano Millarez, chief of the supervisory examination service division of the Bureau of Customs; and Isidro Angangco, chief appraiser of the Manila Customhouse. The trip of these officials has been authorized by the Cabinet.

The President announced the conclusion of an air transport agreement between the Philippines and Mexico. Malacañan attaches great significance to the conclusion of the agreement as it marks a milestone in the development of the local civil aviation industry as well as of Mexican-Philippine relations. The extension of the PAL's international route beyond San Francisco to Mexico City is considered one of the most important developments in the expansion of the PAL's air transport services between Manila and major countries and cities of the world. Earlier this year, Frankfurt and Zurich had been added to the airlines routes.

November 18:

Major General Calixto Duque, chief of staff of the AFP, reported to the President that Col. Florentino Cardenas, SULTAF commander, had categorically denied that two army officers and 20 enlisted men were held as hostages by Kamlon's followers. Col. Cardenas said in his telegram received by Maj. Gen. Duque that the "report is not true."

After giving last-minute instructions to Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who saw him off at Nichols Field, the President boarded the *Laong Laan* about 9:30 a.m. in order to take a much needed rest at Poro Point following a grueling schedule he had had in Manila during the last three or four days. He took with him a bundle of important state documents to study carefully in the quiet of the naval resthouse.

The President appointed Enrique Caguiat as a member of the board of examiners for certified public accountants for another term of three years, as his term expires this month. Jose Panganiban was also designated as acting chairman of the board of directors of the National Development Company. He replaces Eduardo Taylor, acting chairman of the board, who is soon leaving for the United States to purchase machinery and equipment for the new government portland cement company to be established at Bacnotan, La Union. Panganiban will continue to discharge his work as acting general manager of the National Development Company.

The President commended the Philippine Armed Forces for the "splendid and praiseworthy assistance it rendered the relief agencies in extending relief to the victims of the typhoons *Trix* and *Wilma*." The Philippine Air Force was lauded for the airlifting of food and clothing to the typhoon areas; the Philippine Navy, for furnishing the needed ships for relief supplies to the Bicol region; and the ground force, for furnishing men and wireless facilities which provided the means of communications.

November 19:

Before leaving for Poro Point, the President issued Proclamation No. 355, declaring November 27, 1952, a special public holiday for national thanksgiving, "to dedicate our noblest thoughts in prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God for such bounty."

The President also issued Administrative Order No. 202, coordinating the activities of the different organizations of the government in connection with the campaign for the complete restoration of peace and order and recovery from disasters caused by natural calamities. According to the administrative order, the mobilization, accommodation, and care of evacuees and population in troubled areas shall be under the direction, control, and supervision of the manager of the Philippine National Red Cross.

November 20:

The President authorized the release of ₱85,763 as aid for health work in several provinces where local health funds are insufficient. This release does not come under the relief funds authorized by the President for release under his emergency powers.

In reply to President Quirino's message of congratulations after the announcement of General Eisenhower's election to the presidency of the United States, the President-elect assured President Quirino that "as President I shall constantly seek to develop the historic and unique relationship of trust, confidence, and goodwill between the Philippines and the United States."

November 21:

The President conferred lengthily with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay who went to Poro Point by plane to report on the latest progress of the nationwide peace and order campaign. Secretary Magsaysay arrived at the navy resthouse before noon. He had lunch with the President, and enplaned back for Manila about 3 p.m. "happy" after the conference.

The President signed Proclamation No. 347, declaring the 10th day of December of every year as Human Rights Day; and Proclamation No. 147, declaring the first week of December every year as Family Week. He also issued two circulars urging all provinces, cities, and municipalities to prepare and hold appropriate programs and other forms of celebration to commemorate Human Rights Day and to observe in a fitting way Family Week, with emphasis on "Cooperating Families Make for Cooperating Communities."

In a telegram dispatched to Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque in Sulu, the President instructed Maj. Gen. Duque to inquire into suitable portions of public lands in the South for settlement of landless people and surrenderees if they so desire. The President asked Maj. Gen. Duque to enlist the cooperation of the people to make Sulu peaceful and productive. "I desire to speed up land distribution and accelerate production," said the Chief Executive in his telegram.

November 22:

The President who has kept silent, ignoring Senator Laurel's suggestion that President Quirino and he withdraw from the 1953 presidential race, finally said when pressed for comment: "Well, Dr. Laurel always presumes I will commit fraud in the coming elections. Very unkind of him."

In the afternoon, the President received Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola who motored to Poro Point to visit him on pressing matters concerning the Finance Department. In the evening, the Chief Executive had a few minutes overseas telephone conversation with Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo in New York.

November 23:

Feeling almost fully recovered from a bad cold, the President spent the morning going over reports received from Maj. Gen. Duque and civilian officials in Sulu. He expressed satisfaction over Duque's report that about 5,000 hectares of public land are available in Tawi-Tawi for settlement of landless people and surrenderees. The report was in reply to a directive from the President three days ago instructing Maj. Gen. Duque to look for suitable lands

for settlement while Duque was in Sulu, in order to step up food production and 'die restoration of peace and order in that region.

November 24:

The President arrived at the military airbase operations at Nichols Field on board the presidential plane *Laong Laan* from Poro Point at 11:06 a.m. When his attention was called to a statement by Senator Jose P. Laurel in a radio broadcast Sunday that "President Quirino shook hands with Kamlon," he retorted: "It's a lie. I never saw Kamlon. How can I shake hand with the person I have not even seen?"

When asked how he reacted to Senator Laurel's proposal that he and Laurel withdraw from the presidential elections in 1953 in favor of Secretary Magsaysay, the President replied: "I received it with a severe cold," and added: "Some describe it as absurd; others, as silly; and still others, as blackmail; while those who consider it seriously say the idea is unworkable and undemocratic. As for myself, I'll consider it for what it is worth—*por lo que puede valer*. Dr. Laurel is just maneuvering to eliminate me as a possible rival in 1953 by hook or by crook, going to the extreme of threatening bloodshed. Shades of the 1949 Batangas rebellion! How edifying! Instead of cringing on somebody, why does he not stand up and fight in the open in the most democratic and peaceful spirit?"

On arrival at Malacañan Palace, the President immediately conferred with about 20 LP members of Congress accompanied by Speaker Eugenio Perez and Senator Quintin Paredes. The Congressmen endorsed the President's reaction to the Laurel proposal and urged the President to run for reelection in 1953.

The President conferred with Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque who called at Malacañan to report; on his trip to Sulu, particularly on the latest developments on the Kamlon case. Maj Gen. Duque recommended to the President that Kamlon and his followers, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment after having pleaded guilty to the charges filed against them, be granted conditional pardon to' give them a chance to lead peaceful lives. Duque recalled that when Kamlon first surrendered to Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, one of the promises given to the Moro bandit and his followers by the Defense Secretary was that they would be pardoned by the President.

November 25:

The President appointed Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde as Philippine representative to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London on June 2, 1953.

The Cabinet decided to set aside 10,000 hectares of the public lands which will soon be opened for settlement in Rizal province for Philippine veterans, upon the recommendation of the President.

During the Cabinet meeting the President inquired into the statement attributed to Dr. Roland R. Renne, Director of MSA in Manila, that politics was delaying MSA releases. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Jose Camus told the Cabinet that insofar as the distribution, of irrigation pumps was concerned, there was no politics involved. He pointed out that many factors have to be considered in the distribution of the irrigation pumps like for instance their suitability in certain provinces. Under such circumstances, Camus said, he had to order more surveys where the pumps could be installed.

The President created the Rizal Day committee which will handle the preparations for the Rizal Day celebration this year. He signed Administrative Order No. 202, designating, the following to compose the Rizal Day Committee: Hon. Oscar Castelo, chairman; Hon. Jose Figueras, Hon. Cecilio Putong, Hon. Asuncion A. Perez, Dr. Enrique Virata, Hon. Bartolome Gatmaitan, Juan Nakpil, Dean Leoncio B. Monson, Ramon del Rosario, Dr. Concepcion Aguila, and Gabriel Daza, members; and Prof. Vicente Lontok, executive secretary.

The President also signed Proclamation No. 356, declaring the period from January 19 to 25, 1953, as Traffic Accident Week. The proclamation authorizes the National Traffic Commission to solicit donations to carry out the educational campaign to prevent traffic accidents. The campaign will be conducted by issuing leaflets, posters, and

banners, and by setting up billboards or signboards designed to emphasize the necessity of observing traffic safety rules and regulations.

The President, moreover, signed Administrative Order No. 204, creating the Informational Media Guaranty Program Committee composed of a representative of the Department of Education, as chairman, and a representative each of the University of the Philippines, the Central Bank, the Import Control Commission, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, as members. The committee shall screen, approve, or disapprove all applications for contracts to supply the Philippines with media materials under the Informational Media Guarantee program.

November 26:

Malacañan disapproved and declared null and void an ordinance adopted recently by the municipal board of Ozamis City, it being in restraint of trade prejudicial to the public interest. The ordinance sought to impose permit fees on persons, firms, or corporations dealing in certain foodstuffs for business purposes and intended to be transported out of the city of Ozamis. The items sought to be taxed include hogs, cattle, poultry, vegetables, and fruits. To support its ruling, Malacañan cited section 2287 of the Revised Administrative Code which provides that "It shall not be in the power of the municipal council to impose a tax in any form whatever upon goods and merchandise carried into the municipality, or out of the same, and any attempt to impose an import or export tax upon such goods in the guise of any unreasonable charge for wharfage, use of bridges, or otherwise shall be void."

The President ordered the reactivation of the Barangay Associations, with former Undersecretary of the Interior Nicanor Roxas to head the campaign. The establishment of the different *barangays* in the City of Manila and in the provinces will be resumed for the purpose of bringing closer relationship between the people and the government in the advancement of the peace campaign.

Malacañan released a letter of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Joaquin M. Elizalde allaying any misapprehension resulting from the fact that the Military Bases Agreement between the Philippines and United States has not been ratified by the United States Senate. The Foreign Affairs Office said that in a note of June 16, 1947, the American Charge d'Affaires *ad interim* in Manila informed the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines that "the Government of the United States of America considers that the signature affixed to the Agreement in its behalf constitutes the acceptance of the Agreement by the Government of the United States of America." This clarification was made because some Nacionalista senators beaded by Senator Carlos P. Garcia raised the question of the effectivity of the Military Bases Agreement when they learned that it had not been ratified by the United States Senate.

November 27:

The President inspected the progress of the work on the International Exposition and Fair at Wallace Field. Accompanied by Jose P. Marcelo, a young Filipino industrialist, he left Malacañan Palace at noon and spent almost an hour visiting the buildings already finished for the coming international fair. Then the President motored along Dewey Boulevard to look into the new extension of the boulevard from the Redemptorist Church. This new extension helps relieve the traffic on F. B. Harrison, especially on Wednesdays when thousands of devotees go to the Redemptorist Church.

After going over the reports of the House committee headed by Representative Simeon Toribio, who called on him at Malacañan in the evening, the President announced his decision to release the third sum amounting to ₱2,953,165 for the building of schools and some public works that had been destroyed by typhoons. This sum will bring up the total release for public works to ₱5,345,780. The first release was ₱365,100 and the second was ₱2,027,515. Malacañan said that the President will not issue another executive order for the release of more funds for public works. He will leave it to Congress to do the appropriating of more funds for public works during the coming regular session. This means that the President will confine his releases to the amount specified in his two executive orders, about ₱37 million for public works and about ₱11 million for relief funds.

November 28:

In the course of his conference with provincial delegations which called at Malacañan at noon, the President advised provincial governors and municipal mayors to refrain from discussing politics at this time so that the people in their respective localities might not unduly be distracted from doing their bit in the common task of nation-building. He observed that unbridled discussions of the 1953 elections had been undermining national concentration on constructive activities. "We have a job to do and should not let politics distract us from our work," the President said.

November 29:

The President approved the release of ₱5,000 additional aid to the Manila Children's Hospital for the maintenance of 35 beds in its charity ward up to December this year. The release was prompted by a letter of Judge Natividad Almeda Lopez, president of the Manila Children's Hospital, who asked for the amount owing to "extreme financial difficulties."

Speaking through Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, Malacañan ruled that official business required by law to be transacted on a date coinciding with a holiday may be postponed until the succeeding day or may be held during the holiday, depending upon the discretion and agreement of the officials concerned. This ruling was laid down by Malacañan in response to a query from San Pablo Mayor Fule as to when the municipal board shall hold its regular session if the date fixed for said session coincides with a holiday. The provision of the general law, section 31 of the Revised Administrative Code, was cited to support the ruling.

The President granted executive clemency with parole conditions to the Moro bandit leader, Hadji Kamlon, and 23 of his followers who had been convicted by the court of first instance of Sulu and sentenced to life imprisonment each on charges of rebellion with multiple murder and multiple serious physical injuries.

About 12.30 p.m., the President boarded his car and motored to the Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong to visit Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay who had been operated on for appendicitis the day before. "Take good care of yourself. I cannot afford to lose you," the President told Secretary Magsaysay affectionately.

In an extemporaneous speech delivered before the delegates to the Philippine Federation of Private Medical Practitioners at cocktails given in Malacañan in their honor in the evening, the President decried the degeneration of free discussion, especially among government officials, which is characterized by "so much malice, so much ill-feeling, so much ill-intents, and so much suspicion" that, because of this dark picture, everybody is getting confused. He said: "There is something like drunkenness in our thinking. There is no more sober approach to many problems when one gets drunk with intellectual power, ambition, or disappointments."

November 30:

Malacañan announced Cabinet approval of the projects to be undertaken under the United Nations Expanded Assistance Program. The amount of ₱255,564.21 was approved for the projects. This sum is part of the ₱500,000 included in the appropriation of the Department of Foreign Affairs for the fiscal year 1953, "for counterpart fund to be used in meeting commitments in the implementation of projects in the Philippines to be undertaken under the over-all supervision of the Expanded Technical Assistance Program of the United Nations. Among the projects to be implemented are the Bayombong project, the schistomomiasis project, the statistical training center, and the vocational training institute. These projects were approved after a series of meetings called by the Department of Foreign Affairs which were attended by representatives of various government departments and offices.

"The new heroism of today is the heroism that would build this country," the President declared in a brief extemporaneous speech at San Fernando, Pampanga, in the afternoon, at the celebration of "Employees Day" of the La Mallorca-Pampusco Transportation Company. "The new heroes of today," the President pointed out, "are the laborers, the industrialists, the farmers, and all those who belong to the masses that are making this country a great and enduring one." The President congratulated the La Mallorca-Pampusco Company for having organized a festival to honor its employees. He said that this celebration was most welcome as it is seldom that employees and those who are shouldering the great burden of every constructive activity are honored.

The President left Malacañan about 10 a.m., for Bacolor, Pampanga. In Apalit, the Presidential party was met by Senator Pablo Angeles David and officials of Pampanga who accompanied the President to Bacolor. The President immediately proceeded to the Bacolor church where he stood sponsor in baptism for Pablo Angeles III, son of Senator and Mrs. David. At about 4 p.m., Representative Diosdado Macapagal fetched the President from the David residence, and accompanied him to San Fernando to attend the coronation ceremonies of the muses of the La Mallorca-Pampusco Co. After the ceremony, the President was unexpectedly introduced to the eager audience by the master of the ceremonies, and was requested to deliver a speech.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: December, 1952

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

December 1:

In two separate directives to the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the President took steps to protect public health and safeguard against further motor vehicle accidents. Prompted by revelations made by Dr. Vicente R. de Ocampo at the convention of the Philippine Federation of Private Medical Practitioners held a few days ago, a letter was sent to the Secretary of Health by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque requesting that "prompt and effective measures be taken to prevent the manufacture and sale of dangerous drugs" that, according to Doctor Ocampo, "not only are not proving of benefit to their users but are injurious to public health." In another letter sent to the Secretary of Public Works, Roque requested that the Motor Vehicles Office be instructed that no vehicles for hire be re-registered except after a rigid examination of their mechanical conditions as to their roadworthiness.

December 2:

The President issued Proclamation No. 357, setting aside 25,475 hectares situated in the municipalities of Tanay and Montalban, Rizal, for agricultural settlement purposes. The proclamation was signed in the course of his conference with various officials concerned with the establishment of the settlement project. He ordered that 10,000 hectares in the projected settlement area be set aside for veterans "so that these heroes of the last war could have an opportunity to own lands." The Chief Executive instructed all officials concerned to rush the project through without unnecessary delay.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President created a joint committee to carry out the program of opening virgin lands and their settlement in the eastern part of Rizal Province. The committee will be composed of a representative from each of the following: Department of Public Works, Department of Agriculture, LASEDECO, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, National Planning Commission, Metropolitan Water District, National Power Corporation, Office of the District Engineer of Rizal, Office of the City Engineer of Manila. The project calls for the opening of a highway between Montalban and Tanay, Rizal Province. The proposed highway will pass through virgin lands in the eastern part of Rizal in order to open up for settlement almost 25,000 hectares of public lands, 10,000 hectares of which will be earmarked for veterans of World War II.

At the close of the Cabinet meeting, the President invited all his Cabinet members to the luncheon he was giving in honor of Vice President Fernando Lopez, who had just returned from a three-month tour around the world.

Speaking before 450 ACCFA trainees from which will be chosen cooperative organizers and loan officers of the government credit association, the President told the first batch of trainees who will spearhead the activities of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Finance Administration in the provinces that "agriculture is still the backbone of the nation," and to that end, the government is accelerating the opening of public agricultural lands. The President served a stern warning that they should serve the people and not their own selves first. He cited the unhappy experience of past government credit and cooperative organizations which had ended activities abruptly because of the unscrupulous activities of some individuals in those organizations. The President inducted into office Feliciano Bauso, the seventh member of the board of governors of the ACCFA which was created by Republic Act 821. Bauso was the model farmer of 1936 chosen in connection with the first anniversary of the Commonwealth Government.

December 3:

The President directed the board of directors of the NARIC to dismiss from office 11 officials and employees, to suspend for a period of three months one employee, and to reprimand and warn another employee. These employees were found guilty of anomalies and irregularities in the National Rice and Corn Corporation by the Administrator of Economic Coordination, who conducted a lengthy investigation into the reported anomalies and irregularities in the NARIC. Those ordered dismissed by the President, upon the recommendation of Economic Coordination

Administrator Mariano Jesus Cuenco were: Alvaro Tolentino, agent-cashier, and Marcelino Calara, warehouseman—both of Bongabong buying station; Pablo Sangalang, agent-cashier, and Severino Bernardino and Pascual Ulip, warehousemen—all of Guimba buying station; Dominador Santos, agent-cashier, and Andres Angeles and Sixto Parinos, warehousemen—all of Mu-iioz buying station; Rufino de Guia, warehouseman, and Leandro Castelo, district chief—both of the Cabanatuan NARIC branch; and Antonio Martinez, technical assistant to the NARIC general manager. Cirilo Manuel, agent-cashier of Gapan buying station, was ordered suspended for three months, and Cesar Cajucom, district manager of Cabanatuan NARIC branch, was ordered reprimanded and warned.

The President received the first copy of the government calendar for 1953 from Director of Printing Pablo Lucas. The calendar is a pictorial illustration of Philippine progress; hence its title, "Philippine Progress." The President expressed pleasure with the calendar, saying "it is a very good calendar both from the point of view of presenting geographically Philippine progress in pictures and from the artistic manner of execution."

In the presence of a big group of newspapermen, the President signed in the evening a proclamation, declaring February 15 to 21 of each year as National Press Week. After signing the proclamation, he enjoined the members of the Philippine press to help build a fearless, independent, and responsible public opinion. The proclamation enjoins all the people of the Philippines to lend their full support and cooperation in the proper observance of the National Press Week.

December 4:

Malacañan justified the granting of presidential pardon to Antonio Guillermo of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, who had been convicted of multiple murder and sentenced to seven life imprisonments. The President granted pardon to Guillermo on the basis of the recommendation of two judges of the courts of first instance who believed that he is entitled to executive clemency, and that of another judge who believed that he should have been granted amnesty under Republic Act No. 810. The Palace statement said that the President's actuation is a demonstration of the Chief Executive's sense of fairness and justice in exercising the "benign prerogative of mercy granted him by the Constitution."

Upon the President's order, the board of trustees of the Government Service Insurance System reconsidered its previous decision and unanimously approved the granting of Christmas dividends to members of the insurance system this year. More than 150,000 government employees who are members of the GSIS will benefit from this decision. This year's dividends will be more by 20 per cent of what was paid out last year, so that if an employee received ₱50 bonus last year, he is entitled to ₱60 this year.

The President was shocked at the sight of too much destruction wrought by typhoon *Trix* when he flew over the Bicol region aboard the Presidential plane *Laong Loan* at noon this day. He was so touched by what he saw that, in his talks before provincial officials of the Bicol region and the people of Legaspi City, he said in a voice full of emotion that "for partisan purposes, it is almost a crime for anyone to stop by hook or by crook the discharge of my responsibilities under the Constitution to feed the hungry." He added, "as long as the Constitution vests in me the responsibility of taking care of the welfare of the people, I do not care if they cut my throat or what they say. I cannot ignore the suffering of the people."

At a conference with provincial officials from Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, and Masbate held at the library building of the Albay High School, the President signed Executive Order No. 548, reducing the 1952 taxes on all real property in the Province of Albay. He assured the provincial officials of the other provinces devastated by the typhoon that he would sign similar executive orders for them to reduce the 1952 taxes on real property if their provincial boards will pass resolutions requesting relief as that passed by Albay. The President authorized the provincial officials to proceed with the reconstruction and repair of their school houses and public buildings without the necessity of submitting them to public bidding in order to save time. The President left Manila at 9:30 a.m. with practically all the members of the Cabinet and reached Legaspi shortly after 12 noon. The presidential party returned to Manila at 5:15 p.m.

December 5:

The President convoked the regular Cabinet meeting shortly after 12 noon, six hours ahead of the regular schedule, in order to take up without delay with the department heads concerned the priority arrangements in the release of funds for urgent public works and for relief to provinces devastated by the typhoons and by other calamities. With Education Secretary Cecilio Putong and Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, the President went over the estimates needed for reconstruction or repair of school buildings in the Bicol region and other provinces.

The Cabinet approved the granting of Christmas bonuses to employees of government-owned or controlled corporations which have made profits. The bonuses will be 20 per cent of the monthly salaries of employees receiving ₱200 or less a month.

December 6:

In a letter received at Malacañan this day, U. S. Defense Secretary William C. Foster told the President that the recent discussions in Manila of the mutual defense problems between the Philippines and the United States have brought about progress in further cementing the close relationship between the two countries. Foster said in the letter that “there was great physical evidence of progress in my brief stay in the Philippines.” He added: “It is always reassuring to find that plans made in the past are progressing favorably.” Secretary Foster headed the mission which discussed with the President and the Philippine delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde various aspects of the relationship between the United States and the Philippines specially relating to defense.

The President ordered Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo to go ahead with the construction of the two wings of the grandstand on the Luneta and have them finished in time for the next Fourth of July celebration. He said the amount of ₱300,000 had already been made available for the completion of the permanent structure, the construction of which is being financed from public contributions.

The President received Col. Benito Ebuena, chief of the airforce, who boarded the yacht *Apo*, where the Chief Executive was resting, to report on his goodwill mission to Taipei. Ebuena reported that the Philippine mission was received royally by Taipei officialdom headed by no less than Chiang Kai-shek himself. He also reported on the vast strides of progress the Chinese government has achieved in Formosa, particularly in agriculture and in defense preparations.

The biggest group of delegates to any national convention in Manila went to Malacañan in the evening to pay their respects to the President and present him a plaque in recognition of his assistance to the dental profession. Some 800 delegates to the Philippine Dental Association lustily shouted *Mabuhay* as he was being awarded the plaque. In his extemporaneous remarks, the President appealed to the delegates to heed the spirit of public service. He said that in his trips throughout the Philippines he has seen actually the demand for dental services among the masses, especially in the outlying districts. Public service, he pointed out, applied not only to men in the government service but even to those in private lives. He sounded the call for the spirit of service, saying that dentists should not concentrate in the cities but should spread out into the outlying area where their services are badly needed, even if the practice of their profession in those areas may be less lucrative than in the cities. The President exhorted them: “Do your share in nation-building. Help stabilize the country. Contribute your bit.”

December 7:

The President enunciated a new government policy in regard to the solution of the agrarian problem. Before an enthusiastic crowd of some 15,000 people assembled at the churchyard of Tanay, Rizal, he announced that the government's new policy is to open up more public agricultural lands for distribution to the landless, to implement the old policy of buying landed estates for resale to the tenants. He explained that this new policy has been prompted by the fact that there are not enough funds to purchase landed estates. He added that there are big areas of available agricultural lands for distribution. The President also announced another new government policy of allowing the tenants occupying these public lands to pay for them in terms of their produce, like rice, corn, and other products, if they so desire, instead of paying for them in cash.

Earlier, after a luncheon at the Maytime pavilion in Antipolo, Rizal, the President revealed to the townspeople that his visit to Rizal Province was prompted by the construction of the much-needed road to connect the towns of Pililla and Montalban, which links several towns in Rizal and Laguna, in order to carry out immediately the land distribution in Rizal Province and thus step up the country's agricultural production. The President left Malacañan at 9:30 a.m. and rode in the presidential car with Speaker Eugenio Perez, Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, and the presidential aides. Others in the presidential party were Economic Coordination Administrator Mariano J. Cuenco, Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, Import Control Commissioner Primitivo Lovina, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jose S. Camus and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque. The President received warm and enthusiastic reception in Rizal in spite of the conspicuous absence of Governor Wenceslao Pascual and other high provincial and national Nacionalista officials of the province.

December 8:

The President issued Administrative Order No. 206, imposing a fine of an amount equivalent to a salary for ten days on Cirio H. Panganiban, director of the Institute of National Language, who had been found guilty by the Integrity Board of teaching at a local university during office hours. Director Panganiban was given stern warning that a repetition of this irregularity would be dealt with more severely. Panganiban was charged with a number of irregularities, including drawing salary while confined in a hospital, teaching during office hours, receiving money from a subordinate, laxity, abuse of power, and inefficiency. The charges were investigated by the Integrity Board, but all the charges except one were dismissed by the Board upon motions of the complainants and the respondent. Panganiban contended that he was not aware of any law or regulation requiring a bureau director to be at his desk at 8 a.m. The President said that "bureau directors, if indeed they are not supposed to observe office hours strictly, are at least supposed not to engage in outside activities during office hours."

In a separate administrative order, the President fired Domingo Calagnara as justice of the peace of Kolambugan and Monai, Lanao, for having been found guilty of interfering with the conduct of elections and for carrying firearm inside a polling place. It also appears in another administrative case that the district judge found Calagnara negligent in the performance of his duties for failing to enter in his docket a criminal case for forcible abduction which he himself had accepted. The records of the Department of Justice which investigated Calagnara likewise show that on June 12, 1950, he was reprimanded for his irregular actions in connection with a civil case brought before his court. The Secretary of Justice recommended Calagnara's removal from the service.

After 11:30 a.m., the President motored to the University of Sto. Tomas gymnasium to preside over the opening ceremonies of the pharmaceutical exhibition held in connection with the observance of National Pharmacy Week. He was accompanied by members of the National Pharmacy Week executive committee headed by Dr. Iluminado M. Cada who fetched him from Malacañan. The President was impressed by the locally manufactured drugs and cosmetics displayed in various exhibition booths in the gymnasium. He encouraged the manufacturers to keep on improving their products.

From the gymnasium, the President motored to the UST hospital to visit Mrs. Sofia de Veyra, former Malacañan household chief and formerly social secretary during the time of President Quezon. Now over 70 years of age, Mrs. De Veyra has been confined in the hospital for sometime.

December 9:

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque issued a circular enjoining all provincial governors and city mayors to refrain from celebrating December 30 this year in a frivolous manner and to impress upon the people that Rizal Day should be a day of meditation rather than of jubilation. The circular calls upon all provincial executives to commemorate the event with proper solemnity in keeping with the day of martyrdom of the Filipino hero. The circular suggests that efforts should be exerted to clean all Rizal monuments and public plazas of cities and municipalities with the cooperation of pupils, students, and civic organizations in the locality. These suggestions embodied in the circular regarding Rizal Day celebration had been formulated by the National Rizal Day committee created by the President in Administrative Order No. 203.

The Cabinet, meeting aboard the presidential yacht Apo in the evening, decided to give top priority to the government's home-for-the-homeless and land-for-the-landless program. This action took precedence over all Cabinet decisions on other government projects. The President cancelled a scheduled three-day vacation in Poro Point, La Union, to take up this issue with his Cabinet. He directed Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo to speed up the housing and slum clearance programs. Lorenzo was authorized to use \$1,058,000 in the PHILCUSA funds and ₱7,000,000 in counterpart money for the purpose. The President also directed Vice President Fernando Lopez in the latter's capacity as Agriculture Secretary to issue titles to occupants of public lands who had been developing their sites. He took this action in recognition of the occupant's efforts to develop the lands they have been occupying and make them productive.

December 10:

The President sailed to Mariveles, Bataan, in the morning to make an unannounced inspection of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation drydock in that province. The national shipyard is fast being completed. It is now partly operating, making structural steel and other parts needed by the steel mills in Uigan, Lanao, according to Assistant Manager Leonardo Estrada who conducted the President all over the place. It was learned that some F10 million had already been spent on the ₱20-million project. The President visited the town of Mariveles and surprised the townspeople after inspecting the shipyard. Classes were suspended to give the children a chance to see and welcome the President.

The presidential yacht Apo departed from Mariveles at noon bound for Batangas, as the President desired to inspect the proposed CALTEX oil refinery in Bauan. However, heavy seas forced abandonment of the visit. The Apo took shelter in Hamilo Cave off the Batangas coast, returning to Manila after the high waves had subsided. The President stayed on board the yacht during the night.

Answering Senator Jose P. Laurel's latest blast directed against him in Boac, Marinduque, the President charged that Senator Laurel was "carrying out macabre plans" while "I am busy carrying out my constructive plans." He invited the people to "watch closely and conscientiously which occupation is more beneficial to their permanent welfare." The President's statement was issued aboard the presidential yacht Apo.

December 11:

The President authorized acceptance of a proposal to erect a statue of General Douglas MacArthur in Manila. The statue will be financed from funds to be raised in the United States and will be a gift of the American people to the people of the Philippines. The proposal had been made to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo by Col. Edward Ford Stevenson, retired, of North Windhorn, Connecticut. Romulo was advised by the President to accept the proposal.

The President also approved the proposal to establish in Manila an institute of public administration. The establishment of the institute was strongly recommended by President Vidal A. Tan of the University of the Philippines. It will be financed by the PHILCUSA.

The President remitted by 50 per cent the 1952 taxes on all real property in Legaspi City in a further move to ameliorate the plight of its residents who were recently victimized by typhoons. Executive Order No. 551, which contains the presidential directive, imposes the condition "that all the unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before December 31, 1952."

Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., was authorized to supervise, authorize, and control the preparation and sale of locally made drugs and other medicinal preparations "and the sale of those imported into the country." In a letter signed by Executive Secretary Roque in the name of the President, Secretary Salcedo was directed to issue rules and regulations necessary to protect the health of the people from drugs and medicines which are not only below standards but may be dangerous to their users.

To correct reports that a Cabinet reshuffle was in the offing with the possible resignation of Economic Coordination Administrator Mariano J. Cuenco, the President issued the statement that “the reported changes in the Cabinet is an extraneous idea. We may perhaps need more concentration and collective responsibility, but I am satisfied with my present Cabinet.” In a note sent to the President in the afternoon, Economic Coordination Administrator Cuenco denied the report, saying that as long as the Chief Executive continues to have his trust and confidence in him, he will continue to serve.

Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay boarded the *Apo* at noon and reported to the President on the current peace and order campaign. He stayed aboard the yacht the whole afternoon, and had luncheon with the President at noon and even stayed for dinner in the evening.

December 12:

In his conference with the President aboard the yacht *Apo* at noon, Representative Floro Crisologo reported on his trip and observation abroad on legislation, particularly regarding labor and social security measures in the United States, England, and Spain. He said that during his visit in London, Madrid, Paris, and Rome, he heard nothing but admiration for President Quirino, who he said is being regarded there as the foremost anti-communist leader in Asia today.

In order to end once for all intrigues in and out of the government about a Cabinet reshuffle, the President told members of his Cabinet at its meeting this day that there’ is going to be no change in his Cabinet. The President made this assurance to his department secretaries following persistent reports originating apparently from political intrigues about the forthcoming changes in the Cabinet. The President also turned down the petition of the Pan Philippine Shipping Inc., which had been awarded the contract by the Philippine Government for the salvage of five sunken vessels at Cebu harbor during a period of six months ending January 21, 1953, to allow the entry into the Philippines of 14 Japanese crew who will undertake the salvage work at Cebu. The company which won the bid for the job last July has not yet started up to this time any work on the salvage.

In the afternoon the President debarked from the yacht *Apo* to stand sponsor at the opening of the new San Juan de Dios Hospital on Dewey Boulevard in Pasay City. In a prepared message, the President said that the reopening of the San Juan de Dios hospital “is expressive of the great strides our country is making in building more and better institutions for the continuing enrichment of the people’s welfare.”

December 13:

In a statement issued on the death of Ambassador Jose P. Melencio in Japan, the President said: “I am greatly shocked to learn of the sudden death, of Ambassador Jose P. Melencio. He has left behind him a splendid record of fruitful service to the country. ... It is unfortunate that he passed away when we needed his invaluable services most in our negotiations of the reparations with Japan. ...”

Presided jointly by President Quirino and Speaker Perez, a caucus of five Senators and 28 Representatives of the Liberal Party held aboard the yacht *Apo* decided to consolidate and strengthen the Party for a clean and sweeping victory in the 1953 polls. It was the unanimous opinion of those present during the caucus that the Liberal Party can stand solidly on its achievements in building the Republic, and that on the strength of these achievements the people will continue to entrench the Party in power.

Taking advantage of the yacht’s cruise around Manila Bay, the presidential party proceeded to Mariveles to inspect the progress of the work on the National Shipyards. Proudly presenting the dockyard to the Speaker and the visiting solons, the President told them: “This is one of our brilliant accomplishments. It is a wonderful execution of a phase of our industrialization program.” The presidential party landed unannounced at 3 p.m. at the Mariveles shipyard.

The President implemented further his land-for-the-landless program by signing Proclamation No. 538, reserving for settlement purposes certain parcels of public domain in Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija. These reserved lands

for settlement will be under the administration and disposition of the Land Settlement and Development Corporation (LASEDECO).

December 14:

The President directed Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff, to intensify the campaign against the Huks and protect the rice crops from the dissidents. "Give them no quarters," he told Duque during the lengthy conference they had aboard the yacht Apo. Reporting to the President on the state of peace and order situation, Duque said the "land-for-the-landless" and "home-for-the-homeless" program of the administration is attracting dissidents to surrender and take advantage of those opportunities. Duque recommended the opening up of more public lands in Northern Luzon for the crowded provinces of the Ilocos and for surrendered dissidents of Central Luzon, and urged the construction of a highway from Jones, Isabela, to Tuguegarao, Cagayan, via San Mariano so that an estimated 100,000 hectares of virgin lands in the Cagayan valley could be opened for settlement.

December 15:

On the eve of the third year of the organization of the Barangay Association, Malacañan, in a press statement, discounted the fears and criticisms of certain quarters that the reactivation of *barangay* organizations shall be used to further the political ambitions of the administration. Nicanor Roxas, Malacañan technical assistant in charge of the Barangay Association, reiterated that "the central idea of the barangay activities is to put more flesh and blood to the present program of the government, not only to bring the government closer to the people, but to insure an organization for the people wherein the various activities of their daily existence covering agriculture, health, local industries, and other projects, may be pursued with more vigor and on modern methods complementary to such purposes."

The President conferred with Gen. Albert Pierson, chief of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group to the Philippines (JUSMAG). The conference lasted for 30 minutes but no details were released on what was taken up in the conference aboard the yacht Apo. The President also conferred for almost an hour in the morning with Dave Martin, an American publisher who is visiting the country.

In a Christmas message to the nation delivered in the course of his 50th monthly radio chat at his Malacañan study at 7 p.m., the President called for organized effort and national dedication to the social enlightenment of the common people. He enumerated the steps taken by his administration to bring about the social amelioration of the common *tao*, including the opening of more settlements for the landless, the establishment of low-cost housing projects for the poor, and the adoption of minimum wage scales designed to benefit the workman. In conclusion, he said: "The Nativity originally brought glad tidings to the oppressed, the bondsman, the poor. Today, it is in us, God helping, to effect and expand our liberation from the oppression of the spirit, the sufferings of the body, and the deadening hand of poverty by waking up to our new opportunities, by cultivating! the goodwill and the faith and the capacity for work and sacrifice which the Star of Bethlehem brought and should always mean to the world." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5217-5220, for full text of the radio chat.)

December 16:

In a move to give the consuming public the cheapest possible electric light rates, the President directed Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to order the Public Service Commission to look into, the high cost of electric light energy despite the fact that the National Power Corporation is selling electricity to companies holding franchises for as low as two centavos for every kilowatt-hour. The Chief Executive expressed hope that appropriate action can be taken by the Public Service Commission soon to alleviate the burden of the electric light consuming public. People in residential houses in Manila pay at present an average of P.20 per kilowatt-hour for the first 30 kwh.

The President administered the oath of office to Luis F. Reyes as president of the Philippine College of Commerce, in a ceremony held at Malacañan at noon.

About 12:30 p.m., the President convoked the regular monthly meeting of the Council of State. He designated a committee composed of Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, as chairman, and Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo and Majority Floor Leader of the House Raul T. Leuterio, as members, to take charge of the reception and funeral arrangements for the remains of the late Ambassador Jose P. Melencio.

After lengthy consultations with the Council of State, the President directed Foreign Affairs Secretary Elizalde to sound out U. S. Secretary of State-designate John Foster Dulles when he comes here in February on the possibility of holding a Southeast Asia conference in the Philippines in May next year to discuss Asian problems. With the concurrence of the Council of State, the President also called for the speedy formulation of the Philippine stand on the proposed revision of the Bell Trade Act.

The Council authorized Secretary Elizalde to stop the activities of R. F. Navarro, who is not a representative of the Philippine government, in the reparations negotiations in Japan.

December 17:

The President ordered the National Power Corporation to facilitate payment of all farm lands expropriated by the government in connection with the construction of the Ambuklao hydroelectric project in the Mountain Province. The order was given following complaints received from a delegation of Ambuklao Igorot farmers who called on the President aboard the yacht *Apo* in the evening. Accompanied by Representative Ramon P. Mitra of Baguio, the delegation informed the Chief Executive that lands which they had been cultivating for many years and which had been taken over by the government about a year ago, has not been paid as yet.

December 18:

The President authorized the release of ₱2,474,810 for public works projects in typhoon-stricken areas and for the reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of national buildings and "other permanent improvements." The amount will be drawn from funds appropriated in an executive order the President issued recently in the exercise of his emergency powers.

The President spent the day in a series of conferences with different officials aboard the yacht *Apo*. In the morning, he conferred with Budget Commissioner Pio Joven and Dr. Amando Dalisay, PHILCUSA executive secretary, on the budget of the PHILCUSA office. At noon, he had a half-hour talk with U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, on "routine matters of interest to both the United States and the Philippine governments." The President also conferred with Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque in the morning in connection with the forthcoming meeting between the Chief Executive and the area commanders of the armed forces of the country.

December 19:

Malacañan declared null and void an ordinance of the municipal council of Ormoc City seeking to impose fees for the loading and transportation of certain livestock from that city to other municipalities. Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, who handed down the ruling, declared that the fee sought to be collected by the Ormoc City council is in the nature of an export tax and therefore lacks statutory authority.

The Cabinet decided in its meeting in the evening the immediate replacement of government officials and employees who have reached the automatic retirement age of 65. The Cabinet decision will affect those officials and employees who were to have been retired a year ago but were retained in the service upon the recommendation of the heads of offices. In a previous meeting of the Cabinet, these employees whose services were deemed necessary were retained for a period not exceeding one year, provided that at any time, if and when their successors could be appointed, they should be retired from office.

December 20:

In a no-holds-barred extemporaneous speech before the general staff, area commanders, deputy commanders, some members of Congress, and Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay at the social hall of the Philippine Navy at 11:30 a.m., the President told the top brass of the Philippine Armed Forces that as long as they are in the army, they must keep away from politics. He said that the army has gained the confidence of the people and that they should do nothing to destroy that trust. The President said that the army should be kept from the suspicion that it is going to be utilized to enhance the political prestige or political ambition of some party or people.

December 21:

The President issued Executive Order No. 552, fixing the prices of two milk products. The price of *Armour* milk was fixed at the ceiling price of ₱.43 per tin of one-half ounce, retail. *Similac*, a brand of powdered milk, was fixed at ₱3 per tin retail. The President also issued Proclamation No. 360, making public the convention on Food Traffic which the Senate ratified on May 5, 1952, in its Resolution No. 83.

In accordance with, protocol, the President met the remains of the late Philippine Ambassador Jose P. Melencio at the San Sebastian church about 1 p.m. He was at the church at 12: 55 noon with Mr. and Mrs. Luis Gonzalez to wait for the Ambassador's remains. Earlier in the morning, he sent his senior aide, Lt. Col. Jose Cardenas, to the airport to represent him on the arrival of the Ambassadors remains. Military honors were accorded the late Ambassador on the arrival of his body at the airport aboard a Japanese government chartered plane.

December 22:

Tenants and farmers representing delegations from seven towns in Pampanga, accompanied by Representative Diosdado Macapagal, saw the President to request the improvement of the 15-kilometer national road from Sail Antonio in Lubao to Basa Airbase in Floridablanca and the hastening of the construction of the Gumain-Porac river control and irrigation project. The President took the opportunity to inquire into the tenancy situation in Pampanga where unrest and dissidents originated even before the last war. The visiting tenants and farmers told the Chief Executive that they do not know of any big landed estates in Pampanga or anywhere in Central Luzon which is causing discontent among tenants. They also disclaimed any knowledge of any alleged feudal system or defective land tenure mentioned in the Hardie report that is causing discontent among tenants in Central Luzon.

December 23:

The President appointed Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez as coordinator of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, one of the agencies implementing the President's social amelioration program. He also signed the re-appointment of Dr. Apolonio Juat as member of the Board of Pharmaceutical Examiners for another term of three years.

The President created a 15-man committee to consider the proposal submitted by the Japanese government in connection with question of reparation from Japan. The committee is composed of Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde; Senator Jose C. Zulueta, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs; Representative Diosdado Macapagal, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Secretary of Finance Aurelio Montinola; Senator Camilo Osias, Senate Majority Floor Leader; Senator Vicente Madrigal, member of the Senate Committee on Foreign, Affairs; Representative Daniel Z. Romualdez, member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno; Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo; Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda; NPC General Manager Filemon Rodriguez; Vicente Sinco, member of the Philippine delegation which signed the Japanese Peace Treaty at San Francisco; Antonio de las Alas, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce; and MRR Director Sergio Bayan.

During the Cabinet meeting the President signed Proclamation No. 361, declaring December 31 a special public holiday coming as it does between two official holidays, Rizal Day and New Year's Day. He also signed Executive Order No. 553, reducing the 1952 taxes on all real property in Catanduanes on condition that all unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to the year 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before April 30, 1953.

Immediately after lunch, the President motored to the Legislative Building to attend necrological services and the funeral of the late Ambassador Jose P. Melencio. Following the services, he invited the bereaved family into his car which preceded the slow-moving caisson to the Makati cemetery. After the funeral he took the bereaved family to their home in Sta. Ana and then returned to the Palace shortly before 5 p.m.

The President mobilized government relief agencies to send the much needed relief supplies to the fire victims of the ₱2-million Laoag conflagration.

December 24:

The President left for Poro Point aboard the presidential coach at 8:45 a.m. and reached the place at 1:30 p.m. After a short rest, the President left Poro, arriving in Vigan at 5:20 p.m. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 5227, for the text of the President's Christmas message which he prepared before leaving for Vigan.)

December 25:

The President spent his Christmas with members of his family at the Mindoro fishpond of former Governor Pedro Singson Reyes in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

December 26:

The President motored to Laoag, Ilocos Norte, to look into the relief requirements of the fire victims. He flew back to Vigan in the afternoon.

December 27:

The President arrived in Bangued, Abra, before noon. In a speech delivered at the welcome rally upon his arrival, the President appealed for unity and cooperation among the people. He said the Philippines today is surrounded with dangerous conflagrations in Asia and that it is imperative that the people should unite and work together to preserve the country from danger. In his stirring speech of welcome, Senator Quintin Paredes declared that his province of Abra is solidly behind the President's continuance in office so that the people may receive fully the benefits of his program of administration. Governor Lucas Paredes, in his speech, pledged that the two Liberal Party factions in the province, the Paredes and the Valera factions, are one and united in support of the President.

After lunch at the residence of Governor Paredes, the President motored back to Vigan where he enplaned for the return trip to Manila, arriving at the Nichols Airbase about 5 p.m.

In the evening, the President welcomed to the Philippines, Henry J. Brunner, Rotary International president who came to Manila with his wife in the course of his visits to the various Rotary clubs in Asia and the Far East. In a brief extemporaneous welcome speech at the Malacañan ceremonial hall, the President said that the Philippines has a great responsibility to cultivate a friendly feeling of oneness with other nations. But, he added, we need not only understanding but the spirit of good cheer and happiness which Rotary helps to promote.

December 28:

General Ralph B. Lovett, manager of the Veterans Administration in the Philippines, reported to President Quirino that ₱170 million was distributed to Filipino veterans, their families, dependents, and beneficiaries for the year 1952. This amount represents a substantial increase over that of 1951, and according to General Lovett, the peak has not yet been reached.

December 29:

During a conference with Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay, Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo, Solicitor General Juan R. Liwag, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP Judge Advocate Fred Ruiz Castro, and Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, the President directed the armed forces and the Department of Justice to expedite investigations of the Chinese Communist suspects rounded up by the Military Intelligence and to release immediately those against whom there are no sufficient evidence to warrant their arrest and detention.

December 30:

The President approved the release of ₱4,800,000 for the repair, maintenance, and construction of municipal roads and bridges. The sum will be charged against the balance of ₱16,400,000 out of the total estimated collections of ₱50 million accruing to the Highways Special Fund. The release was recommended by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications.

The President led the nation in the observance of Rizal Day. He arrived about 9:30 a.m. at the grandstand to witness the parade and attend the program. The four-day nation-wide celebration was climaxed by a program at the Luneta grandstand with Dr. Vidal A. Tan, president of the University of the Philippines, as guest speaker. This year's celebration of Rizal Day was one of meditation; no events of frivolous character like dances, beauty contests, and the like were held.

After the Rizal Day program, the President, accompanied by Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo and Acting Manila Mayor Bartolome Gatmaitan, motored to the City Hall. The President directed the acting mayor to have the City Hall repainted and to make it look spic and span so that it will create a good impression, especially on foreign visitors expected to come to attend the International Fair in Manila from February to April. The President returned to Malacañan after his visit to the City Hall. Then about 11:40 a.m., he went to the Funeraria National and viewed the body of late Judge Tiburcio Tancinco. He also viewed the body of Emil Ysalina, brother of Governor Paciencia G. Ysalina of Misamis Oriental, and condoled with the bereaved families. Leaving the funeral parlor at past noon, the President motored to Quezon City to visit J. Amado Araneta who has been recuperating at his home from a recent illness. He returned to the Palace about 2 p.m.

December 31:

The Philippine government acted immediately on the hijacking of PAL's passenger plane, PI C-38 C 47. The plane with its passengers and with its pilot and purser killed, landed on Chinese Nationalist-held Quemoy Island near Formosa after an unsuccessful attempt of the Chinese air criminal and communist suspect to land it in Communist China. The President, through Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, directed the Foreign Office to take measures for the repatriation of the crew and passengers and for the return of the PAL plane to the Philippines. Defense Secretary Magsaysay sent an army plane to Taipei with MIS operatives to look into the case of three of the Chinese passengers who were reported to be among those wanted in the last roundup of communists in Manila and in the provinces.

The President designated Assistant Director of Lands Zoilo Castrillo as acting lands director to succeed Director Jose P. Dans who retires on this day. He also designated Undersecretary Regino Padua as acting director of the Bureau of Health vice Director of Health Felipe Arenas who also retires at the age of 65 as required by law for automatic retirement.

“Despite some difficulties, both anticipated and unexpected, I am entirely satisfied with our progress during the past year, the steady improvements in the public service, the condition of peace and order, but especially the active implementation of the economic mobilization program of my administration,” the President told Malacañan newsmen in reply to a request for an off-hand summarization of the government's accomplishments of the past year.

“Economically, we have been not only stable but relatively secure, industrially, we have made considerable progress; and financially, we have been in a stronger position than we had ever been since the establishment of Philippine independence; politically, the situation. could have been better but was not entirely bad; socially our

people are much better off; and in our foreign relations we have gained such prestige that our record constitutes one of democracy's great success stories," the President succinctly summarized the year's progress under the Republic."

The President expressed himself as particularly proud that what visible and substantial constructive achievements have been made during 1952 and may be seen today were largely, if not entirely, the product of Philippine initiative and efforts and locally available funds which, in his opinion, attest to the efficient husbanding of Philippine resources for productive investment and economic development, and expansion. He said that the major construction projects which were undertaken during the year which should be ready for operation early this year were built entirely out of the ₱200 million capital made available by the Central Bank and out of current government appropriations.

Without discounting the importance of MSA aid, he explained that such aid has not yet taken any substantial form in a manner to decisively influence development either in agriculture or in industry during the year. MSA aid so far received, he further pointed out, consisted largely in funds for technical assistance, for planning and surveys, for educational facilities and extension services, fertilizers and irrigation pumps. He expressed the hope that the New Year will finally see accelerated assistance.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: January, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

January 1:

On the occasion of the call of the diplomatic and consular corps and their staffs and ladies on the President during the traditional "at home" held at Malacañan's reception hall at 10:45 a.m., the President, leading in the exchange of toasts said: "In the midst of a troubled international sea, I would like to raise a voice of good cheer, unity of the democracies, and peace and happiness of humanity. I, therefore, offer a toast to the representatives of our friends and allies across the seas that they may echo this voice."

Replying for his colleagues, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Egidio Vagnozzi, dean of the diplomatic corps, said: "In the name of my colleagues in the diplomatic corps and in my own, I wish to offer this toast to Your Excellency for a Happy, Prosperous New Year. May God help and assist Your Excellency in the fulfillment of all your endeavors for the welfare, the happiness, and the prosperity of the Filipino people."

President Harry S. Truman led the chiefs of state of other nations in greeting President Quirino on New Year's Day. His cabled greetings received very early in the morning was as follows: "I wish to express to Your Excellency my sincere appreciation for your holiday greetings and to extend to Your Excellency best wishes for the coming year." Among the other New Year's Day greetings from foreign chiefs of state were those from Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain and President Somosa of Nicaragua.

In a message prepared on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel Roxas, President Quirino said: "It is fitting that we renew our affection and high patriotic regard for him who had the privilege to lay the foundations of our Republic. . . . We are heirs to the great task of nation-building which Manuel Roxas and the rest of our earlier leaders, heroes, and martyrs left unfinished. We can pay no greater tribute to him and to them than to continue the job courageously and steadfastly." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 22, for full text of the message.)

January 2:

During his visit to Cavite Governor Dominador M. Gamerino in the Philippine General Hospital, the President counselled Camerino against serious repercussions in Cavite of the shooting at the Lyric Theater on New Year's Day which resulted in the serious injury to the Governor. The President deplored the keen political rivalries in Cavite which had led to shootings, not only in that province, but also in Manila.

The President paid final tribute to Mrs. Sofia R. de Veyra, whose remains were laid to rest at the La Loma Cemetery in the afternoon. He visited Mrs. De Veyra's body shortly before noon at the Ateneo chapel on Padre Faura. He extended his condolences to the De Veyra children who were present at the chapel and asked them to convey to their father his sorrow for the loss of the great Filipino woman.

January 3:

The President granted the traditional New Year executive clemency to 102 prisoners, 14 of whom were Huk surrenderees in Iloilo. He also commuted the sentence of 11 prisoners and granted special absolute pardon to two others. The presidential clemency was based on the recommendation of the Pardons Board. The clemency extended to 14 Huks was in line with the President's policy of attracting dissidents to give up the lawless life for a life of peaceful and orderly existence.

The President held a luncheon conference with Liberal Party Congressmen during which they began mapping out a program of legislation preparatory to the forthcoming regular session of Congress. Saturday being the day set aside

for legislators, the President took advantage of the presence of many Senators and Representatives to invite them for luncheon so that he could have more time to hear their individual views on varied problems of state.

The president conferred with Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, PC Chief, and Lt. Col. Engenio Acab, Provincial Commander of Cavite, at noon. Both officials assured the Chief Executive that the situation in Cavite is normal and that precautionary measures have been taken to prevent repercussions in the province as a result of the shooting of Governor Camerino in the Lyric Theater.

January 4:

Consultations with members of the Cabinet were started by Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on the advisability of extending barter trade agreements between the Philippines and Japan which will expire on the last day of this month. These agreements first expired on September 30, 1952, but were extended for four months ending on January 31, 1953. The extension to be sought will be for another period of four months during which period Congress shall have disposed of the Japanese peace treaty or shall have considered any other instrument terminating the state of war with Japan, according to the Malacañan announcement.

January 5:

The President received Oscar Ewing, U. S. Federal Security Administrator, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of Asian countries. Earlier in the morning, the Chief Executive received Mons. Mariano Madriaga, Bishop of Lingayen, Pangasinan, who called to take up the participation of the Catholic church in the International Fair to be held in Manila in February. The Bishop also presented the President with suggestions on education and social welfare.

January 6:

The President announced during the Cabinet meeting the completion of the membership of the 15-man National Economic Council to revitalize the government agencies which are charged with the work of carrying out the administration's economic program. He appointed six new members and reappointed three old members of the NEC. The new members are: Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, OEC Administrator M. Jesus Cuenco, PNB President Pio Pedrosa, NPC Manager Filemon Rodriguez, Agriculture Undersecretary Jose S. Camus, and Juan L. Ledesma, sugar planter. Reappointed members were: Jose Cojuangco, banker and industrialist; Amado N. Bautista, MRR general-manager; and Salvador Araneta, lawyer and businessman. The President directed the members of his Cabinet to submit to him reports of their respective offices and departments together with their recommendations which he will embody in his report on the state of the nation at the opening session of Congress on January 26.

The President had a breakfast conference with Dr. Roland R. Renne, chief of the Mutual Security Agency in Manila, and Jose Yulo, chairman of the PHILCUSA. No announcement was issued by Malacañan on this conference beyond the fact that it was agreed that the President will preside over the joint meeting of the MSA and the PHILCUSA at 11 a.m. the next day at the Council of State room. The President, said the Palace announcement, decided to call this joint meeting to acquaint himself with what has been accomplished and what to undertake along MSA-sponsored projects here. On the facts revealed at this joint meeting, the Chief Executive will base details of his state-of-the-nation address to Congress.

January 7:

The President presided over the conference with American Embassy officials and representatives of the MSA and PHILCUSA which began about 11:30 a.m. in the Council of State room. The conference was also attended by Secretaries Joaquin M. Elizalde, Aurelio Mohtinola, and Pablo Lorenzo, Senator Tomas Cabili, Congressmen Cipriano Alias and Arturo Tolentino, CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, PNB President Pio Pedrosa, and other key officials. The conference was called by the President, to thresh out with the Philippine and American officials concerned the controversial features of the MSA report on land reform and the joint MSA and PHILCUSA report on alleged deplorable conditions in the barrios.

The misunderstanding which resulted from certain inference and conclusions in the two controversial MSA-PHILCUSA reports was believed ironed out when Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance assured the President that a statement in the Hardie report which indirectly suggests American intervention in the event the Philippine tenancy problem is not solved, had not been officially endorsed by the U. S. government. Ambassador Spruance assured the President there was never any intention on the part of any in the local U. S. Embassy or the MSA who had gone over the Hardie report to “saddle the Quirino administration with blame for these centuries old ills.” He said, “Certainly no reflections were intended on the Quirino administration in the Hardie report.”

Opening the conference, the President recited the history of American aid from his first conference with President Truman in 1949 to date, to point out the aims and character of the aid that had been agreed upon. He gave an account of the efforts exerted throughout half a century to solve age-old problems, and then he analyzed the Hardie report. After citing what he felt was an offensive passage in the report, he asked the American Ambassador whether he would “categorically own” the recommendation for intervention as an official U. S. view.

The President told the conference that the reports were “faultless”— meaning that they were accurate—and should prove of great use charting the course of U. S. economic assistance to the Philippines. But he vigorously objected to the conclusions and inferences in the MSA reports that the government had neglected the needs of the barrios and the welfare of the common people as well as to the release of the reports to the press which he believed was intended for political ends.

In an extemporaneous statement given to news reporters after the joint MSA-PHILCUSA conference, the President said that he purposely not only got together the representatives of the MSA and the PHILCUSA, but also invited the American Ambassador to be present in a family discussion of the reports in order to clarify the main objectives in the Activities of both bodies—the MSA and the PHILCUSA—and thus, in a helpful spirit, cooperate in solving the problems that are confronting the country. He said he wants to disabuse the minds of people who must have thought we have abandoned the idea of purchasing landed states and exclusively adopted the policy of opening up for settlement available public agriculture lands. “We did not abandon the idea,” he pointed out. “Up to now we have already purchased 44,000 hectares of landed estates worth P18 million, and because of that, we are indebted in the amount of P14 million.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 22—24, for the full text of the extemporaneous statement of the President to the press.)

The President issued two executive orders fixing the ceiling prices of local construction materials and of certain foodstuffs. He signed Executive Order No. 555, revising the ceiling prices of corned beef (Royal brand) with the inclusion of the seven per cent sales tax and one per cent municipal tax. In Executive Order No. 556, the President amended the price for cocoa (Peter’s brand) by pegging the retail price at P1.09 a tin. This price includes the 17 per cent special tax on foreign exchange, seven per cent sales tax, and one per cent municipal tax. This executive order also sets the maximum selling prices for local soil pipes and fittings which include the seven per cent sales tax and the one per cent municipal tax.

The President gave a dinner in honor of Their Eminence, Thomas Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, and Francis J. Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, at 8 p.m. at Malacañan Palace.

January 8:

The President took time out from pressing official duties to give concrete answer to any doubt or suspicion cast by his detractors upon the social amelioration program of his administration by personally dedicating the cornerstone of the new low-cost housing projects of the government in Manila and Quezon City. After tackling his usual Malacañan routine and receiving Senator Quintin Paredes and Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, he left the Palace at 11:40 a.m. for the site of the housing project in Pandacan, the former athletic field of the University of the Philippines on Zamora Street. Following the dedication ceremony in Pandacan, the President proceeded to Bago Bantay site which lies on both sides of Highway 54 in the northwest corner of Quezon City.

In his brief extemporaneous speeches at the dedication ceremonies, the President enumerated various projects heretofore undertaken by the government for low-income families in various parts of the country and expressed his

determination to improve the living conditions of the masses. He said: "When I assumed office a few years ago, I announced a new Philippine ideology: land for the landless and home for the homeless. I was neither dreaming nor bluffing merely to win votes when I said that, and as long as I have the capacity and the means to do so, I shall continue to satisfy the longings of the people to better their living conditions."

The two new low-cost housing projects will be undertaken under the joint auspices of the MSA and PHILCUSA. For the Pandacan project the MSA has allotted P730,000 for the purchase of foreign materials and the Philippine government sets aside P2,675,000 counter fund. For the Bago Bantay project MSA is supplying P268,000 and the Philippine government, P1,566,000 for the remainder of the construction.

The President flung a new rebuke at critics of the government for its alleged apathetic "attitude toward the common man" by challenging them to check on the "concrete, eloquent facts" of the progress that has been achieved to improve the lot of the common people. He stressed that progress accomplished to better community living in rural areas "can now be checked up not only in pictures, not only in programs, not only in speeches, but in deeds." The rebuke was made on the occasion of the turning over to the Central Bank of P4 million from the counterpart fund to expand credit facilities in the rural areas. One-half of the amount is to be made available to the rural banks and the other half to the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration. Two agreements releasing the P4 million were signed in the afternoon by officials of the PHILCUSA and the local MSA. The agreements marked the first transfer of money from the counterpart fund in accordance with MSA-PHILCUSA programs for insuring the availability of credit on terms more suited to the needs of the farmer.

January 9:

The President took off aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan* at 9:25 a.m. from Nichols Field and landed at Tuguegarao, Cagayan, at 11:45 a.m. He went to the Cagayan Valley to inaugurate the capitol buildings of two provinces and two bridges in that region.

At luncheon at the Arranz gymnasium in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, in the heat of his impassioned plea for all-out cooperation with the government efforts to stamp out communism in the country, the President announced he was sending his son, Lt. Tomas Quirino, and his son-in-law, Lt. Luis Gonzalez, to fight in Korea to help preserve democracy in the world. He warned against the conduct by our people that would give aid and shelter to agents and tools of communists and lashed out at those who are giving such agents and communists, protection in our courts. He said that all our sacrifices so as to preserve democracy in our country and all the industrial and economic development that we have accomplished for the benefit of the masses, especially the common *tao*, will be lost and nullified if we permit those people with an ideology different from ours. The President pointed out that a change of regime in this country to a regime that will cooperate with communists and their tools in order to deliver us to foreign power, will destroy everything we have built and we have sacrificed for in lives and everything dear to us. The President cut the ceremonial ribbon inaugurating the Tuguegarao capitol at noon.

January 10:

Following a 25-minute flight from Tuguegarao, the President arrived at the, Caoayan airfield about 10:30 a.m. aboard the *Laong Loan*. Passing through Caoayan town about four kilometers from the airfield, the presidential car was swamped by a large group of townspeople who welcomed the President with brass bands, fireworks, and showers of flowers, that he had to alight from his car and address the crowd briefly. In welcome speeches delivered by local political leaders and on placards borne by people from all walks of life, as well as in inscriptions on gaily decorated arches which dotted the highway along the route of the presidential party,—all insisted on the President's running for re-election so that he might continue his program of securing financial and economic stability for the nation.

In his speech at the provincial capitol inauguration at 7 o'clock in the evening, the President declared that the present administration was the first to have the courage to go after undesirables in the government service. He enumerated various officials and employees already convicted or indicted, and promised he would continue ridding the government of undesirable elements.

January 11:

The President, in his speech before a big crowd at the Bayombong (Nueva Vizcaya) plaza at noon, dared his critics to come to the barrios and towns to repeat what they say against what the government has accomplished for the common *tao*, instead of making their attacks from their swivel chairs. He said these critics are afraid to face the people on this score. The President also spoke at Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Nacionalista Governor Jose Madarang said in his speech at Bayombong that when the common *tao* goes to the polls to elect the President of this Republic, he will take stock of what the President has done for the common *tao*'s welfare. The voters will then realize that the President's economic mobilization program includes land for the landless and home for the homeless, all of which aim at improving the common *tao*'s standard of living. Governor Madarang launched then and there the President's re-election before the big crowd. The President enplaned for Cagayan at 3 p.m. and arrived at Aparri at 4:30 p.m. The Presidential party was met at the airport by Gov. Jose Carag, Representative Paulino Alonzo, Mayor Doroteo Miram, and Vicente Formoso. Gathered at the town plaza was the biggest turnout of the people to give the President a royal welcome. In a statement given to the press, the President said that Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson remains suspended until the decision of the Supreme Court overruling the presidential suspension order becomes final. He pointed out that the suspension of erring elective officials is an old practice since the time of President Quezon which the present Chief Executive just continued.

Speaking before 15,000 people at the town plaza of Aparri in the evening, the President enumerated what he had done for the welfare of the common *tao*. He said the prestige of the country is very high abroad, and warned the people of Aparri against some people who are trying to degrade such high prestige we enjoy now. He told the people to be ever on the alert against those who are helping the Huks and the Communist to deliver this country to foreign powers. Governor Jose Carag, Mayor Doroteo Miram, and Vicente Formoso rallied the people behind the President, and launched his re-election before thousands of cheering people.

January 12:

The President, through Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, ordered the reinstatement of Arsenio H. Lacson, suspended mayor of Manila, on the basis of the court decision absolving him of the libel case instituted against him by Judge Agustin P. Montesa.

Interviewed by the press at Poro Point, La Union, the President issued the following statement: "The only cause of Mayor Lacson's suspension is the mere filing of a libel suit certified by the Secretary of Justice as a criminal charge involving moral turpitude. The criminal charge having been dismissed, it is obvious that the cause of suspension is removed. The wisdom or legality of the long standing policy that I followed in the Lacson case is not the issue now at this stage of the case. So, independent of any further action taken in his *quo warranto* case and in his administrative case, I am ordering the immediate reinstatement of Mayor Lacson."

The President enplaned for Poro Point from Aparri, Cagayan, in the morning to rest and at the same time to prepare his state-of-the-nation message to Congress and his next radio chat.

January 13:

In a lengthy discussion of public issues with newsmen at Poro Point in the afternoon, the President outlined a six-point legislative program, on which he would ask action in his state-of-the-nation message to be delivered to Congress on January 26. He said he will recommend the extension of the import control program which expires on June 30. Other important business for Congress, he said, will be the enactment of bills designed to ameliorate social and economic conditions of the rural population and raise the standard of living of the masses. In a talk with newsmen shortly before he took off about 3:30 p.m. from Poro Point, the President stressed that Philippine statutes are sufficient to warrant absolute necessity for new laws. What is important, he pointed out, are enabling laws to carry out the economic, industrial, and agricultural projects of the government.

The President returned to Manila on board the *Laong Laan* at 5 p.m. after a five-day tour that took him to Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and La Union.

January 14:

The President woke up early in the morning and motored to the Ateneo chapel on Padre Faura in Ermita to stand sponsor to Mr. and Mrs. Eugenio Lopez who renewed their vows in a ceremony held on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary. The Chief Executive also attended the breakfast later given at the Lopez residence in Pasay City. He returned to the Palace about 10 a.m., but he received only very few callers in his desire to clear his desk of pending state papers which had piled up during his four-day inspection tour of the Cagayan Valley.

In the afternoon, the President received members of the Chinese Nationalists air force goodwill mission who called to pay their respects following their arrival at noon in Manila in eight Mustangs, a B-25 light bomber, and a C-47. He welcomed them at cocktails held at the Palace in their honor. In offering a toast to Lt. Gen. Wong (Tiger) Shu-ming, the President said the general's visit will not only renew the friendship between Nationalist China and the Philippines but at the same time "remind us there is a new friendship which we have contracted during these last few years." Explaining the nature of the new friendship between the two countries, the President said: "Formerly it was a friendship based merely on prosperity as good neighbors," but now it is a friendship which compellingly "brings us together on the basis of a common fear." The President specially inquired for the pilot who saved the hijacked PAL plane from falling into communist hands in China. He congratulated the valiant pilot, Capt Ku Chung-yu, upon being presented to him by General Wong. He even requested Captain Ku to stand close to him when he posed for a group picture with the 27 Chinese airforce officials that compose the goodwill mission.

January 15:

The President presided over the Council of State in its first meeting this year which lasted for more than an hour. He took advantage of the opportunity to hear the views of the members of the Council and the leaders of Congress regarding policies of legislation to be taken up in his message to Congress. He also sounded out their opinion on matters of legislation to be recommended to Congress. He expressed regret that the leaders of the Senate did not attend the Council meeting that it was not possible to have their specific recommendations on measures of legislation. As the Bell Trade Act could not be discussed because of the absence of the Nacionalista members, the Council of State discussed proposed legislative programs outlined by the President and Speaker Eugenio Perez.

The President directed Education Secretary Cecilio Putong to provide for the accommodation of all children of school age in the elementary classes all over the Philippines. Putong was instructed to give top priority to the needs of the elementary schools in the appropriations of the Department of Education.

Shortly before noon, the President conferred with Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez whom he instructed to go to Cebu City to look into the relief requirements to thousands of people rendered homeless by two big recent fires. Mrs. Perez reported that she had already sent three social workers to extend immediate help to fire victims.

In his first radio chat this year, the 51st in the series, the President said that the nation had made considerable progress under his administration and that it would continue to move forward in the year ahead. "Yes, there have been great changes in this country under this administration. Our people in the countrysides have a new feeling of security and new hopes. Of course, the improvements that they now enjoy set the tone for fresh demands for more and more of such improvements," the President declared. Then he went on to enumerate the various achievements of the administration in the development of the national economy and in improving the social life of the common people. He told of how democracy continued to thrive in the country to the extent that "everybody or anybody, can loudly complain in the press, over the radio, in any platform, inside the country and outside the country, in the most unseemly language." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 24-27, for full text of the radio chat.)

January 16:

The President started the day by hearing mass at the Palace chapel with members of his family on the occasion of his 32nd wedding anniversary. After the mass, he received Senator Geronima Pecson who reported to him on the UNESCO conferences she had attended recently in Paris.

Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez submitted to the President a program to ameliorate the conditions of the masses in the rural areas. In submitting the program prepared by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, Mrs. Perez said that the Government has not been indifferent to the needs of the people in the rural areas because of "our constant effort to improve their living conditions through Your Excellency's leadership."

January 17:

The President issued Executive Order No. 557, amending Executive Order No. 442, setting forth the reduced ceiling prices of certain "wonder drugs," most noteworthy of which is aureomycin, to make them within the reach of the masses. The new ceiling price of aureomycin is P19.9& per 250 mg. caps., 16's.

At the cocktails he gave in the afternoon in honor of the delegates to the first, annual convention of the Management Association of the Philippines who called at Malacañan to pay their respects, the President called on the businessmen of the Philippines to expand their enterprises, branch out, and create more opportunities in cooperation with the efforts of the government to make the country financially stable and economically sound. The President assured businessmen that the government will give "all the necessary protection and the necessary incentive" in their business. He pointed out that one of the greatest disadvantages of our country is the fact that "we have been centering our attention to agricultural development and we have become mere producers of raw materials."

January 18:

The President signed Proclamation No. 362, setting aside the period from February 14 to March 31, 1953, for the sixth annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross. The proclamation authorized all national, provincial, city, and municipal government officials and school authorities to accept, for the Philippine National Red Cross, fund-raising responsibilities and urged them to take active leadership in their respective communities.

January 19:

President Quirino sent a message, to President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower on the eve of Ike's inauguration and expressed the hope that under Eisenhower's leadership the "long standing, mutually beneficial" PI-US relations will continue to prosper. He also dispatched a radiogram to retiring U. S. President Harry S. Truman, assuring him of the gratitude of the Philippine government and the Filipinos for the "full and cordial cooperation this country has received during your administration."

In the evening, the President gave a tea at Malacañan in honor of Mrs. Oscar A. Ahlgreen, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the United States, who is a Manila visitor. He also received Senator Camilo Osias who reported to the Chief Executive on the outcome of his talks with Japanese leaders on the reparations issue and on the result of his mission as Philippine delegate to the Interparliamentary mission in Berne, Switzerland.

January 20:

The President held a long breakfast conference with Speaker Eugenio Perez with whom he discussed a program of legislation preparatory to the forthcoming regular session of Congress. He postponed the regular meeting of the Cabinet until after the Council of State meeting the next day. The Chief Executive also conferred with Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola who called to submit the comprehensive report of Finance Undersecretary Sixto B. Ortiz recommending administrative action against 13 officials of the Bureau of Customs implicated in the firecrackers anomaly.

January 21:

The Council of State unanimously expressed itself in favor of a revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. It approved a resolution requesting the President to initiate representations with the government of the United States for the revision of the trade relations between the two countries. The Council

also created a five-man committee to act as liaison between the Philippine government and the Japanese survey body which arrived the preceding day to look into the salvaging of sunken vessels in Philippine waters.

Nacionalista Senate leaders who attended the Council meeting took active part in the discussions, indicating their interest in bi-partisan approach on important problems confronting the country. The Council decided to increase by two members the Nationalists participation in the bi-partisan committee on reparations and Japanese peace treaty. The 15-man committee was increased to 19 with two Nacionalista members and with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay and Economic Coordination Administrator M. Jesus Cuenco as new members.

During the Cabinet meeting which followed the Council of State meeting, the President named a three-man committee to study the problem of marketing Philippine sugar production in excess of the Philippine quota in the United States. Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda reported during the Cabinet meeting that the Philippine sugar quota administration estimated there would be excess of 42,000 tons in the Philippine sugar production this year over the annual Philippine sugar quota in the United States market. The three-man committee is composed of Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizaide, Finance Secretary Aurelio. Montinola, and Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda.

The President felicitated Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez on the occasion of the latter's 70th birthday anniversary. In a message wired from Malacañan, the President told Senate President Rodriguez: "Let me wish you a most happy birthday. May God give you continued health and vigor with which to carry on with your important tasks in the service of our country and people." He also administered the oath of office to Maj. Telesforo Tenorio, police inspector, as acting deputy chief of police of Manila during the suspension of Lt. Col. Celestino Juan.

January 22:

The Cabinet took steps to improve the system of selecting applicants for scholarship and approved three procedures suggested by the new Screening Committee on scholarships, fellowships, and training grants. The new system, as promulgated by the Cabinet, is as follows: (1) giving a short competitive examination consisting of thesis of approximately 300 words in the field to be covered. (30 per cent); (2) requiring all applicants to accomplish civil service forms indicating their educational qualifications, experience, and training (40 per cent); and requiring a personal interview with the chief examiner of the Bureau of Civil Service and members of the Screening Committee or their authorized representatives (30 per cent).

January 23:

The President devoted the entire regular meeting of the Cabinet in the afternoon to giving a preview of his state-of-the-nation address to be delivered at the opening session of Congress.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President appointed Zoilo Castrillo *ad interim* director of lands. Castrillo has been acting director of lands since the recent retirement of Jose P. Dans.

January 24:

The President signed Executive Order No. 560, reducing the ceiling prices of imported fishing twines upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board. The ceiling prices fixed in this order include the 7 per cent sales tax and the 1 per cent municipal tax, and are to take effect immediately.

According to information brought by returning Jaycees who went to Korea to supervise the distribution of relief packages to Korean civilians, President Quirino's message to the 19th BCT troops delivered in Korea by a Jaycee group headed by Roberto Villanueva, Jaycee International president, was received with sighs and tears. The message was mimeographed and distributed to all Filipino soldiers in the front.

About 11 a.m., the President left the Palace and went on board the yacht *Apo* so he could concentrate on his speech due for delivery when Congress opens for the regular session. He brought along the report of the 15-man committee on the revision of the Bell Trade Agreement for thorough study and other important papers needing immediate attention.

January 26:

The President wired his greetings to General Douglas MacArthur on the occasion of the General's birthday. The text of the President's telegrams was as follows: "My people and I salute you today with prayerful wishes for a most happy birthday. May God Almighty continue to keep and bless you and all your own for a life that has found full dedication in active service to freedom and peace-loving men everywhere."

At noon, the President received on board the yacht *Apo* a joint committee of the Senate and the House, which notified him that the Second Congress of the Republic had opened its fourth and final session, and that Congress had passed a resolution to hear his message.

In his state-of-the-nation message delivered before a joint session of Congress at 5:40 p.m., the President told Congress that the Philippines was making tremendous strides toward economic and political stability but warned that the "painful" advance in this direction was "a continuing process" which "should leave us no time and excuse for complacency." The President stressed these two points in his message to Congress on the state-of-the-nation which painted the country's achievements during the past three years against the backdrop of the perils that beset the country.

"We have established during our time," the President said, "a government stable in its finances and political institutions, notwithstanding other observations at home and abroad, rich in promise of yet greater deeds." He warned, however, that "all this would be set at naught, will have no meaning, and our efforts will be in vain, if we do not employ care and vigilance in the preservation of what we hold dear in our heart and soul as a people." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 27-44, for full text of the state-of-the-nation speech.)

After addressing Congress, the President returned to the yacht *Apo* to entertain Norman Thomas Cardinal Gilroy at a cocktail party. The Cardinal called on the President to say goodbye as he is leaving the next day for his native land, Australia.

January 27:

Taking the cue from the President's state-of-the-nation message yesterday, Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque had a two-hour conference with the President in the morning aboard the yacht *Apo* for the purpose of implementing what the President clearly stated in connection with the campaign against the Huks which was as follows: "Face them fraternally if they come to reason, and to the folds of the law, and face them as our worst enemy, in time of national peril, if they don't."

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting convened at noon over the yacht *Apo*. The Cabinet turned its attention during its meeting to the 1953 Philippines International Fair which will depict 500 years of Philippine progress. The Cabinet also approved the recommendation of Labor Secretary Jose Figueras to lift the suspension of the permits of nine employment agencies in Manila which were among the 23 employment agencies in the Philippines whose permits were suspended following their involvement in "sex gang" activities.

January 28:

The President approved the release of P1,700,000 for the repair, maintenance, and construction of municipal roads and bridges. At the same time, he allotted the sum of P2,697,571.01 for the operation expenses of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Of this amount, P2,603,763.51 was earmarked for the maintenance, operation,

improvement, and repair of airports for commercial aviation, including the purchase of necessary supplies, materials, and equipment.

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health, the President issued Proclamation No. 363, making effective in the provinces of Bataan and Tarlac Republic Act No. 832 which regulates the “sale, exchange, or delivery of homepounded, undermilled, milled, or polished rice” in order to encourage the use of “enriched rice.” The effectivity of this Republic Act will last only for 30 days, beginning January 27, 1953.

January 29:

The President had a long conference with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay aboard the yacht Apo anchored near Corregidor. Magsaysay apprised the President on the progress of the peace and order campaign throughout the country, particularly in Central Luzon where the drive against the dissidents has been intensified. He also informed the Chief Executive of the arrival of military equipment, including heavy tracks, weapon carriers, and jeeps, from the United States.

January 30:

In reply to the President’s birthday message sent on January 26 to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, the five-star General stated in a cablegram, sent from New York and received by the President in the evening, that he has been watching with gratification the fine results of President Quirino’s administration “in the land I love so well.”

The President cancelled the Cabinet meeting scheduled in the afternoon in his desire to finish aboard the yacht Apo drafts of several bills which he intends to submit for consideration at the current regular session of Congress.

January 31:

U. S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower cabled President Quirino his “sincere thanks for your Excellency’s kind message of congratulation on my assumption of the Presidency.” He added that he deeply appreciates President Quirino’s “good wishes which are heartily reciprocated.”

In the evening, the President reiterated the conditions under which the government would consider renewed negotiations for Huk surrender. He said that before the armed forces would agree to further surrender negotiations, the Huks must promise to abide by the following: (1) that those Huks who are accused in court should submit to the jurisdiction of the court for trial; (2) that if they are convicted, the President would consider the granting of parole or pardon with parole based on the merits of individual cases and give them a chance to cultivate public lands during their parole period; and (3) that they should surrender all their arms when they give themselves up to the authorities. The President said further that Luis Taruc himself should initiate the resumption of negotiations as he did in 1948 when he wrote a letter to the Chief Executive, if the Huks really “want further negotiations on their peaceful surrender.”

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: February, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

February 1:

The President officially declared open the Philippines International Fair at 5:30 p.m. after he had welcomed the thousands of sightseers, including foreign visitors and delegations, with the words: "We open our homes, hearts, and souls, especially to our foreign friends, so that they may enjoy their stay with us." In an extemporaneous inaugural speech delivered before the Rizal monument at the Luneta, the President expressed the hope that the holding of the Philippines International Fair would contribute to the fostering of international friendship and goodwill among nations. He said this international exposition being held in Manila will demonstrate to the world the efforts of the Philippines to establish here not only a show window of democracy but a unit of peace and constructive activities which is needed today in order to contribute to the promotion of world peace, contentment, and happiness.

February 2:

The President confirmed the action of the AFP Chief of Staff ordering the discharge of two cadets from the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio for illegal hazing of a lower class cadet last year. Those dismissed after due investigation by the PMA academic board were 3rd class Cadets Henry N. Yusingco and Paciano Bartolo. They were found "guilty of unauthorized assumption of authority whereby 4th class Cadet Napoleon C. Bragado suffered cruelty, hardship, indignity, and oppression, a violation of paragraph 105, Regulations for the Philippine Military Academy."

The President authorized the release of P4,211,335 for the construction and repair of public buildings destroyed by typhoons of 1951 and 1952 in various parts of the country, particularly schoolhouses and municipal buildings. He also approved the release of P188,720 for expenses in connection with the operation and maintenance of public hospitals or dispensaries. The allotted sum is chargeable against the lump-sum appropriation of P807,665 which had been set aside for the operation and maintenance of public hospitals and dispensaries established in organized provinces.

The President returned to Malacañan about 10 a.m. from the yacht *Apo* anchored in Manila Bay where he had been staying the last few days. After going over a pile of state papers pending for action, he conferred with Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven until lunch-time. Present during the luncheon conference was Speaker Eugenio Perez who discussed with the Chief Executive program of legislative action for the current session of Congress.

In the afternoon, the President and members of his Cabinet led government officials who reviewed the mammoth historical and industrial parade at the Quirino grandstand on the Luneta. The parade sponsored by the Philippines International Fair started at 4 p.m. and lasted for more than two hours.

February 3:

The President formally proclaimed the period from February 15 to 21 of each year as National Press Week. He issued Proclamation No. 365 "in order that the people may appreciate fully the vital role of the press in our community and national life." He also issued Proclamation No. 364 revoking Proclamations Nos. 358 and 397, dated December 17, 1938, and April 11, 1939, respectively, and declaring, the parcels of land embraced therein, open to disposition under the provisions of the Public Land Act. These parcels of lands in Baguio City were set aside during the Commonwealth for military reservation and a barrio obrero site.

The President was formally informed of United States President Eisenhower's decision to withdraw the U. S. Seventh Fleet from Formosa. As soon as the Chief Executive arrived at Malacañan at 11 a.m. from the yacht *Apo*, Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde handed him the formal notification by the U. S. Embassy

of President Eisenhower's decision to withdraw the Seventh Fleet. After the Cabinet meeting, the President had a luncheon conference with Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay on the U. S. President's order to withdraw the Seventh Fleet from the Formosan waters.

February 4:

The President issued Executive Order No. 562, fixing the ceiling prices of sardines (Holland brand) and locally made nails, upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board. The retail price of Holland sardines in tomato sauce, oval, was set at P.53 a tin.

After a lengthy conference in the morning on board the yacht *Apo* with U. S. Ambassador Raymond Spruance on President Eisenhower's decision to deneutralize Formosa, President Quirino issued a statement that the decision was "more reassuring for Philippine defense and security." The President broke his silence on the Eisenhower decision following a series of conferences with his Cabinet men on the significance of the decision.

"President Quirino is not, and will never be, against the dissolution of barangay associations which are illegitimately functioning and are carrying out purposes for which they are not created and organized," Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal stated, commenting on unauthorized statement in the press quoting the President as against the dissolution of barangay associations in Manila. "The President will go after those officials charged with the duty of supervising the activities of barangay associations, if they are negligent in performing their duties," Arizabal pointed out.

February 5:

The President had a long conference with Budget Commissioner Pio Joven over the preparation of a balanced budget for the fiscal year 1953-1954. Following this conference which lasted until 11 a.m., the President conferred with Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo who submitted a full report on fund releases made to needy provinces by virtue of Executive Order No. 545, up to February 3 when the decision of the Supreme Court nullifying the President's emergency power was handed down. Of more than P37 million appropriated under Executive Order No. 545, only about P4 million had been released to various typhoon stricken provinces. Lorenzo told the President.

February 6:

The Cabinet approved in principle a reduced and balanced budget for the next fiscal year with a total outlay of P560,364,650 as against an estimated income of P560,465,300. The total of the proposed expenditures in the 1953-1954 budget showed a marked decrease of about P48 million from that of the current fiscal year which Malacañan computed at P608,688,675. The Cabinet went over individual outlays at a four-hour meeting in the evening and hewed the rough edges off the draft budget in the light of the President's warning that expense must balance with income so as to prevent any weakening in the Government fiscal position. About P40 million cut was made in the original estimates totalling P600 million.

The President conferred with Import Control Commissioner Primitivo Lovina who recommended strongly the extension of the life of the Import Control Commission. The Commission has only until June 30, 1953, to continue in operation, unless the recommended extension is granted. Removal of controls on imports will allow the entry of competitive products which will be disastrous to young Philippine industries which need government protection now, Lovina said.

February 7;

The President and Speaker Eugenio Perez presided jointly a caucus seven Senators and 33 Representatives of the Liberal Party held aboard yacht *Apo* at noon. The caucus unanimously decided to back a bill pending in Congress which aims to legalize the appropriations, contained in the two executive orders issued by the President appropriating relief funds in the typhoon stricken areas.

February 8:

Speaking before 36 members of the Constitutional Convention which drafted the Constitution in 1935 and to members of the Philippine Lawyers' Association, the President asserted that the Constitution had been "preserved" and that "greater deeds" and "better achievements" would be witnessed by those who had a hand in shaping the nation's charter. The group called on the President, himself a member of the Constitutional Convention, to wind up the observance of Constitution Day. The President, incidentally refuting criticisms levelled against him for having allegedly infringed upon the Constitution, noted that during the past "three or four years" the charter was interpreted in a different light. "Many things have happened," he pointed out, "which have made the interpretation of our Constitution quite different from what it was when we were still under the Commonwealth Government." The President emphasized that all his acts were based on established policy and that in all his actions, "I have never been motivated by a desire for personal advantage or partisan consideration whatsoever."

February 9:

At a lengthy conference with Budget Commissioner Pio Joven in the morning, the President made severe cuts in the initial budget, draft, whittling down the expenditures to a total of P535,364,650, thus reducing by P25 million the amount previously approved in principle by the Cabinet."

In the evening, following a conference with Speaker Eugenio Perez over the budget bill, the President left for the yacht *Apo*.

The President formally classified the newly created provinces of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur as first and second class provinces, respectively, based on their estimated annual income at the time of their organization. This classification was promulgated in Executive Order No. 563 issued by the President upon the recommendation of the Auditor General, and takes effect as of the date of the organization of the two provinces.

February 10:

The President conferred with Maj. Gen. George E. Olmsted, chief of the Foreign Military Aid Program of the United States, on the intimate repercussions of the Eisenhower order ending the blockade of Formosa. The huddle which lasted for 45 minutes was attended by U. S. Ambassador Raymond Spruance, Maj. Gen. Albert Pierson, chief of the JUSMAG, and Brig. Gen. P. D. Harkins. General Olmsted told the President he was highly impressed with the progress of the Philippine Army, Navy, and Air Force. He also praised the performance of Filipino soldiers fighting with the U.N. forces in Korea.

Speaking at the inauguration of the PHILCUSA-MSA pavillion at the International Fair grounds in the afternoon, the President underscored Philippine economic gains achieved with the aid of the United States. He said that there are "eloquent evidences of the sure success of the PHILCUSA-MSA program in the Philippines because we can see it by the results of our efforts during the past two years." The President, at the same time, hit critics of the administration for "beclouding the issues in the approaching elections and for belittling the economic progress made by the country in the last few years.

February 11:

In order to end the controversy between the Catholic hierarchy and the head of the Department of Education on religious instruction in the public schools, the President suggested to Education Secretary Cecilio Putong to fix the hours for religious instruction after due consultation with the pupils and students concerned so as to do away with the so-called "unholy hours" before or after the regular school hours.

The President signed Executive Order No. 564, fixing the ceiling prices of certain drugs, medicines, and household remedies, upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board. The order shall take effect on February 15 five days after the date it was signed. The President also signed Proclamation No. 368, reserving some 8,920

hectares of public lands for settlement purposes under the administration of the Economic Development Corps. Located in the municipalities of Angadanan and Echague, Isabela, the project is the first of its kind established in Luzon for the EDCOR. Proclamation No. 367 was also signed by the Chief Executive, reserving 18 hectares of communal forest in Basco, Batanes, for animal breeding station purposes.

Speaking before the delegates to the first post-war Philippine-Japanese Youth Conference who called to pay their respects to the Chief Executive in the evening, the President said: "All the countries around us cannot stand alone against the onrush of the communists. We have to organize our own regional community, and the earlier we start, the better for us." As the President recalled, without rancor, the death of his wife and three children at the hands of the Japanese imperial troops during the war of liberation, Miss Hideko Yamamoto, chief of the Japanese delegation, shed tears and cast her head down with a feeling of sorrow for the President's loss. In her response, Miss Yamamoto expressed the hope that the future will witness a "realization of mutual cooperation" between the Philippines and Japan. The four-man Japanese delegation to the conference presented the President with a beautiful Japanese doll. The President had the delegates served with refreshments.

February 12:

The President received Thomas H. Mitohel, visiting executive vice-president of the Radio Corporation of America, who called to pay his respects. Mitohel expressed amazement at the rapid recovery of the Philippines since his last visit here several years ago. He said he could hardly believe that such thorough destruction as wrought here by the war could be so completely and satisfactorily rehabilitated in so short a time. "You are enjoying here what we do not enjoy in our country, Mr. President," he said, "you have a balanced budget and your per capita national debt is very small compared to ours in the United States." The President thanked Mitohel for his nice observations and added that it seemed only foreigners who come here now and then fully appreciate the economic progress of this country during the last few years.

February 13:

The President received a group of Representatives headed by Speaker Eugenio Perez who called to discuss certain bills pending in the current session of Congress. The Chief Executive invited them to stay for luncheon, and their conference lasted until 3 p.m.

February 14:

The President designated Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo head of the Philippine delegation to the 15th session of the Economic and Social Council scheduled to convene at the United Nations headquarters in New York on March 31 this year. Other members designated by the President were Salvador P. Lopez and Narciso G. Reyes as alternate representatives.

The President signed Proclamation No. 369, declaring the period from March 15 to 21 of every year as Philippine Industry Week. He also signed Executive Order No. 565, remitting 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes on all real property located in the City of Naga, on condition that all the unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 5 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before May 31, 1953.

The President acted swiftly to punish erring officials and employees of the bureau of Customs in line with his policy to clean the government of graft and corruptions. He also ordered a thorough overhauling of the Customs in line with his policy to clean the government of graft and corruptions. He also ordered a thorough overhauling of the Customs House to purge that office of dishonest and unfit officials and employees.

Faustino Sy-Changco, deputy budget commissioner, was designated to conduct the investigation and purge all the undesirable personnel in the Bureau of Customs. Upon the recommendation of Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, four employees were separated from the service and three others were fined and reprimanded. Customs Commissioner Alfredo Jacinto was also reprimanded. This swift action against customs officials and employees was the result of the smuggling of 62 cases of fire crackers consigned to the Soria Trading last December.

In an extemporaneous speech at the ceremonies opening this year's Red Cross fund campaign, the President expressed regret that he had been recently crucified at the altar of public opinion for providing the necessary funds for the relief of typhoon victims in the Visayas and the Bicol provinces. "My only consolation is that I was able to visit the places and give sufferers first aid," he said. "If I cannot get money from the government for the needy, I will dig deep into my already empty pocket," he announced amidst the applause from the large crowd which jam-packed the spacious Malacañan social hall. The President said he would be willing to be crucified again for the sake of thousands of sufferers and the needy.

February 15:

Addressing the nation in his 52nd monthly radio chat, the President said that in spite of the obstruction and criticism of "the confirmed detractors of this administration," the Philippines today has a program and a constitution that sets a way of living for constructive, concrete, and positive ends. He stressed that two leading topics have been occupying the minds of the people these days, and these are the Constitution and construction. These two topics, he said, are of vital importance to the nation. He recalled that recently the Supreme Court on various occasions rendered decisions which, despite their adverse effects on the administration, tended to bolster constitutionalism as the civilian way of living together in the Republic. The President explained: "What should be of lasting significance and value is not that certain acts of the executive department have been held unconstitutional but that we have a constitution from which our highest court derives the basis of freedom to rule their unconstitutionality without risk of driving the nation into chaos."

Taking an indirect dig at the opposition party, the President said that in spite of the adverse effects of the decisions of the Supreme Court on the party in power, nobody in the administration suggests revamping the court to liquidate seeming judicial intransigence, or nobody threatens ousting suspected recalcitrants and packing the court with new members amenable to the President or to the party in power.

February 16:

The President delivered before the Far Eastern University a blistering tirade against "scheming men" who are distracting students from the actual objectives of student organizations. In a rare display of extempore ability, the Chief Executive held the attention of some 20,000 students and administration and faculty men with a professorial, flippant, then serious off-the-cuff speech. He was guest of honor at a parade and review of FEU cadets, followed by a general convocation, at the huge quadrangle of the university. He expressed regret that the country should be caught in an "atmosphere of conflict" as we go about the task of solidifying the structure of the nation. He urged the cheering throng: "Let us now concentrate on all those things that contribute to the building of this nation Let us build and to build means to construct; to construct does not mean to destroy."

February 17:

The Council of State approved the recommendation of the PHILCUSA for inclusion of additional projects in the economic development program of the country for the fiscal year 1953. These projects call for a total appropriation of \$3,541,000. The additional undertakings which include ports and harbor improvements, resources surveys, refining of copal for paints, and modernization of some office equipment, like those of the Bureau of Lands, were explained in detail by Chairman Jose Yulo of the PHILCUSA, a member of the Council of State. The Council also approved the creation of a committee to make arrangements for the transfer of the Philippine Archives from the Old Bilibid compound on Azcarraga Street to the University of the Philippines at Diliman.

The President received in the morning Togu Nakagawa, chief of the Japanese mission to the Philippines, who called at Malacañan for the first time since the establishment of the mission here several months ago to pay his respects. Nakagawa's call was granted in reciprocity to the invitation extended to Jose F. Imperial, head of the Philippine mission in Tokyo, for an audience with the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

February 18:

The President signed Proclamation No. 586 and 567, remitting 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes on all real property in the provinces of Marinduque and Sorsogon on condition that all unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before May 31, 1953. He also signed Proclamation No. 568, terminating the collection of tolls at the Himoga-an bridge in Negros Occidental because the total cost of the bridge plus the interest have been fully recovered.

The President received members of the five-man Evaluation Mission of the U. S. Mutual Security Administration who called to pay their respects following their arrival in Manila recently to survey various local military and economic project under the MSA program. Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., head of the group, said they were sent here to assess the extent of the U. S. assistance under the MSA and that they are particularly interested in finding out the cause of delays in the flow of assistance to MSA-assisted countries, so that they could recommend measures to be taken by their government to remedy the faults. The President expressed confidence that the Philippines would benefit from their visit here by speeding up MSA projects. He gave the visiting survey team a cross-section of the manifold problems facing the country today.

The President earmarked some 10,000 hectares of public lands for a national organization of students, following the call of some 50 student leaders from four intercollegiate organizations. The delegation called on the President to follow up the Chief Executive's expressed desire to give students as many hectares of public agricultural lands as they would like to farm, which he reiterated at the convocation of the Far Eastern University on February 16 last. The President responding to the students' enthusiasm to support his total economic mobilization program, immediately addressed a note to LASEDECO Manager Marcelo Adduru "to earmark without loss of time any available portion, not exceeding 10,000 hectares" in the province of Rizal. The site is located between Montalban and Sta. Maria, a few minutes ride from Manila.

February 19:

The President conferred with Marcelo Adduru, general manager of the LASEDECO, regarding the immediate needs of the settlement projects in Mindanao and other areas under the administration of the corporation. He particularly discussed with Adduru the opening of the experimental model settlement program for college students intending to engage in agricultural industries in the public reservations in Rizal province. He ordered Adduru to expedite the reservation of a suitable area not exceeding 10,000 hectares at the new settlement to be opened in the eastern part of Rizal province for a national organization of students who would like to engage in farming.

February 20:

Following the receipt of copies of the decisions sent to Malacañan by the court of first instance dismissing the three criminal charges instituted against Lt. Col. Celestino Juan, Acting Executive Secretary Marciano Roque at noon reinstated the suspended deputy chief of police of Manila. The communications addressed to Colonel Juan was coursed through Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson. Another communication was sent to Maj. Telesporo Tenorio, MPD inspector, who had been designated acting deputy chief of Police, informing him of the reinstatement order.

February 21:

In an off-the-cuff speech delivered to some 400 delegates to the Catholic Women's League convention, in the course of their courtesy call in the evening, the President bewailed the indifference of people to what the government is doing, and asked for a "proper appreciation of what has been accomplished." He asked his hearers to compare 1945 with 1953 to see what the government has done, particularly during his administration. He dwelt at length on what the women can do to contribute in the economic development of the country and in various other fields.

The President authorized the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea in accordance with the recommendation of his Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The proposal to exchange diplomatic representatives was first officially broached by the Korean Ambassador in Washington, D.C., in a note dated July 9, 1951, addressed to the Philippine Ambassador in that capital. In fact, as early as June 8, 1949, the Foreign Minister of the

Republic of Korea had indicated to the Department of Foreign Affairs the desire of his government to open trade relations between the two countries, and even suggested the holding of a trade conference.

February 22:

The President and his party were guests of honor in the evening at Clark Air Base in connection with the observance of Washington Day. They were honored at a dinner attended by Gen. O. P. Weyland, commanding general of the U. S. Far East air force, who arrived from Tokyo at 5:10 p.m. this day. The presidential party, which included Mrs. Vicky Quirino Gonzalez, the Vice President, Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, and Col. Benito Ebuena, PAF Chief, arrived at the airbase at 8:40 in the evening.

February 23:

From March 16 to 31, 1953, inclusive, office hours of all government offices in Manila, Quezon City, Pasay City, Mandaluyong, San Juan, San Pedro Makati, Caloocan, and Malabon are reduced to five continuous hours from 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Malacañan explained that this change in the office hours in government offices mentioned above is in keeping with the spirit of the current Philippines International Fair.

The President honored some 200 delegates from various countries to the Second ECAFE Conference on Trade Promotion at cocktails at the ceremonial hall of Malacañan. He told the delegates that their mission here "may be technically concentrated on trade promotion . . . but in a world sense you are here to promote peace and plenty and prosperity." He made the observation that "the ECAFE has outgrown its jurisdiction" and that more countries are now with the conference. Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, ECAFE executive secretary, expressed gratitude for the President's reception for the delegates.

The President named Justice Domingo Imperial, chairman of the Commission on Elections, to investigate the charges that three top officials of the Department of Education are allegedly subverting religious instruction in the public schools. Malacañan announced that on the request of Director Benito Pangilinan, the President has temporarily withdrawn his nomination as Undersecretary of Education, pending the results of the investigation.

February 24:

The President authorized the sale abroad on a government-to-government level of 25,000 metric tons of Burma and Siam rice by the National Rice and Corn Corporation. The proceeds from the sale will be used to settle the NARIC's indebtedness to the Philippine National Bank. The President directed Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to dispose of this stock which the NARIC bought from abroad to supplement local production at a time when there was fear there would be rice shortage. He also directed Joven to expedite approval of the NARIC budget in order to avoid unnecessary delay in the payment of salaries of officials and employees of that office whose accounts had been ordered frozen by the General Auditing Office owing to lack of a new budget.

The President during the Cabinet meeting approved the release of P5 600,000 for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of national and provincial roads and bridges, as well as the streets and bridges in chartered cities. The sum will be taken from undistributed collections amounting to P10,114,476.28 of the Motor Vehicles Fund for the period from February 27, 1945, to June 30, 1952.

In the morning, the President received Foreign Minister Alberto Artajo of Spain who called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila the previous day on an 8-day state visit to the Philippines. After a brief exchange of greetings, the Spanish Minister introduced members of his entourage from Spain who accompanied him to Malacañan. He then presented the President with an autographed picture from Generalissimo Francisco Franco and with a landscape painting done in oil by the Spanish painter, F. Nunez Lolarga.

February 25:

The national directorate of the Liberal Party, after a tumultuous meeting at the Manila Polo Club, unanimously passed a resolution expressing absolute confidence in President Quirino and urging him to run for re-election. The resolution originally fathered by Ly Representative Severino de Leon of Catanduanes and amended by Senator Quintin Paredes was approved by *viva voce*. It read: That the Liberal Party Directorate expressed its absolute confidence in President Quirino in his leadership and administration and urged him to run for re-election, and that the President allow, the Directorate to present his name in the Liberal Party Convention. Sensing the will of his Party Directorate, the President readily accepted the challenge. He said: "I am ready to make a sacrifice of running for re-election if the Party and the country need me."

February 26:

The President received the decoration of "Grand Collar de la Order de Isabela la Catolica" conferred on him by the government of Spain in impressive ceremonies held at Malacañan Palace in the morning. Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Artajo, on behalf of his government, fastened the beautiful medallion around the President's collar in the presence of top government dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and their ladies. It is the highest decoration given by the Spanish government and it is given only to heads of state. In accepting the decoration, the President reaffirmed the friendly ties between the Philippines and Spain. Minister Artajo also spoke of the cultural ties which had bound the two countries for three centuries. Earlier during the ceremonies, Artajo handed to the President two Rizaliana items as further tokens of Philippine-Spanish friendship. One item consists of documents about Rizal, and the other, of scholastic records of the national hero in the University of Madrid where he took his medical course. The collections were given by the President to Director Luis Montilla of the Bureau of Public Libraries for safe keeping.

February 27:

The President received in the morning Roy W. Howard, editor and president of the New York Telegraph and Sun, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of an observation tour of the Far East.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President approved the release of P1,567,353 for the construction and development of irrigation projects in the Philippines for the purpose of increasing rice production. The sum represents Proceeds of interim bonds Nos. 45 and 84 totalling P1,098,153 and of interim bond No. 1 totalling P469,200. The amount was previously advanced by the National government to the National Development Company which in turn gave it to the Department of Agriculture for the purchase of fertilizers.

From the proceeds of the sale of fertilizers, the Department of Agriculture paid back the sum.

The President also signed Executive Order No. 571, creating a decoration to be known as the "Order of Sikatuna." The Order of Sikatuna, which commemorates the first treaty (Pacto do Sangre) between the Philippines and a foreign country, is divided into four ranks: 1. *Raja*—to be awarded to heads of state, former heads of states, and cabinet secretaries and diplomats of at least ambassadorial or equivalent rank, Filipino or foreign, for extraordinary services in the field of foreign relations; 2. *Lakan*—to be awarded to ambassadors, ministers, officials of equivalent rank as ambassadors and ministers, and other distinguished persons, Filipino or foreign, for outstanding services in the field of foreign relations; 3. *Maginoo*—to be awarded to senior officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs, whether in the Home Office or in the Foreign Service, below ministerial rank, for excellent services; in the field of foreign relations; and 4. *Maharlika*—to be awarded to junior officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs, whether in the Home Office or in the Foreign Service, to government officials of the Philippines and of foreign countries, and to private citizens deserving of such honor. Before any Filipino government official or employee may be entitled to the award, he must have a minimum of four years in the government service. The *Maginoo* rank may likewise be awarded to government officials of the Philippines and of foreign countries of comparatively the same rank of senior officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and even to private citizens deserving such an honor. If a government official or employee, he must have served the government at least six years before he could be entitled to the award of *Maginoo* rank.

The President left Malacañan at 3:30 p.m. accompanied by Representative Manujel S. Kojas of Cavite to attend the inauguration of the Camerino Park and Terrace in Imus, Cavite. He was met at Zapote by Governor Dominador M. Camerino and other provincial and municipal officials of Cavite who followed the Chief Executive in their cars up to Imus. Upon arrival at Imus at 4 p.m., the President was given a 21-gun salute by an army contingent. In the course of an off-the-cuff speech before a huge gathering at the Imus plaza, the President counselled the people of Cavite to eradicate lawlessness, and lead peaceful and orderly lives so that their province could achieve greater progress. He expressed great satisfaction in the construction of the Camerino Park and Terrace, and said that if more recreational facilities are offered to the people, the occurrence of kidnapping, murder, and other crimes could be minimized in the province. The President left Imus at 5:30 p.m., and arrived at the Palace about 6 p.m. to fulfill an engagement with the USAFFE Legion.

February 28:

The President filled in and signed his income tax returns which he could not attend to earlier owing to pressure of state duties. If he were to follow a ruling of the Supreme Court, he need not pay his income tax on his salary as a constitutional officer, but the President said that paying his income tax has been a habit with him. "I am glad I've done my civic duty," the Chief Executive beamed after signing his income tax returns.

At a conference with the President in Malacañan, George Peabody, public relations counsellor of the Philippine Association in the United States, reported that the Philippines has a continuing better publicity in the United States at present. Highlights of the report presented to the President indicate an increase of 15 per cent of news about Philippine commerce, trade, and the International Fair; 3.7 per cent increase of news about typhoons and volcanoes; and 7 per cent increase of reports on Filipinos Visiting the United States. Two years ago, the report further indicates, more than 85 per cent of all news about the Philippines published in American newspapers was devoted to reports on the Huks and on graft and corruption. Now, of all the news clippings analyzed, less than 2 per cent could be considered unfavorable, Peabody reported.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: March, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

March 1:

Some 50,000 people packed the Quirino grandstand in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to cheer the President as he arrived at the athletic field to open the BPSIAA meet. The Chief Executive appealed for unity and love and respect among the people in order that we could command the love and respect of our neighbors. He urged that the feeling of unity, cooperation, and love be elevated and taught to the youth instead of fomenting hate and passion.

Malacañan announced that the President had accepted the resignation of Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, effective at 11:55 a.m. this day, and that Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo had been designated as Acting Defense Secretary to take over the portfolio immediately.

March 2:

The President returned early in the afternoon to Manila from Vigan where he opened formally the National Interscholastic Meet. He conferred with Secretary Oscar Castelo, who had been designated Acting Defense Secretary, and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque shortly after arrival at Malacañan.

March 3:

The President signed during the Cabinet meeting the designation of Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo as acting head of the Department of National Defense. He directed Castelo to sit in all boards of government owned or controlled corporations like the PAL, the Manila Railroad, the Manila Hotel, and others, in place of former Secretary Magsaysay, for the time being until a permanent secretary of national defense is appointed. The President also signed the nomination of Ramon del Rosario as member of the Home Financing Commission, and designated Arsenio Martinez as member of the Philippine delegation to the International Labor Conference in Havana, Cuba, on March 16, vice Oscar Ledesma who cannot join the delegation owing to pressure of work.

The President gave a luncheon in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Howard, visiting president of the New York *Telegram* and *Sun*, now in Manila in the course of a tour of the Far East. In an exchange of extemporaneous remarks after the luncheon, the President paid tribute to Mr. Howard for his important role in helping secure the independence law for the Philippines in 1934. He expressed the role that Mr. Howard would continue his efforts in helping the Filipinos so that "the country for which he struggled with us so hard and long, may continue to exist to the credit of the United States and himself."

In response, Mr. Howard recalled the significance of the binding ties existing between the Philippines and the United States, especially in relation to the possibility "that a very large part of the history of the world in the next decade is going to be written here in the Far East." The American publisher said: "I think that the plans and performances must inevitably center largely on these Islands and Korea, and the fact that as we approach a seemingly insoluble situation in Korea, we approach it with a background of understanding between the Philippines and ourselves, is a very, very heartening thing."

In the evening, the President was host at cocktails to the sugarmen presently in convention in Manila. He told the delegates to the 6th national congress of sugarcane planters who called at Malacañan that the "crossroads of ambition" is establishing roadblocks to the country's industrial development. "Today", the Chief Executive said, "there are so many conflicts in aspiration and ambition." In spite of the alarming conditions generated by too much politics, the President counselled the sugarcane planters: "Let us continue developing the sugar industry; let us continue the expansion of agricultural production and in increasing industrial development in a manner that would place our industries on a stable basis that can be utilized as an economic unit but not exactly dependent on a world program which may drag us into the general classification of underdeveloped, areas."

The President received in the evening French General L. M. Chossin commanding the French air fleet in Indo-China who paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive. General Chossin told the President he was happy to visit “this lucky country which, compared with neighbor countries in Asia, is most peaceful and prosperous.”

March 4:

The President visited the army concentration center at Camp Crame about 10 a.m., accompanied by Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo, Senator Tomas Cabili, Rep. Severino de Leon of Catanduanes, Maj. Gen. Calixio Duque, Quezon City Mayor Ignacio Santos Diaz, and Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez. The President told the 1,200 detainees at the army stockade that the investigation into the charges against them will be speeded up so that if there are no evidences, they would be released immediately. The announcement was answered with loud cheers and continuous shouts of “Mabuhay si Presidente Quirino” which rent the air at the concentration camp. The prisoners felt grateful for the new deal accorded them by the Chief Executive who visited them for the first time to look into their conditions.

From the army stockade, the President went to Camp Murphy where he was greeted with a 21-gun salute. After reviewing the honor guard at 10:30 a.m., the President made a thorough inspection of the army headquarters, staying longest in the Civil Affairs Office where the propaganda against the Huks and Communists are prepared and displayed. The Chief Executive found evidences to confirm reports that this section had started its propaganda to glamourize Magsaysay.

At noon, in a stirring extemporaneous speech, at the Officers Club in Camp Murphy, the President pledged the holding of clean and orderly elections in 1953. In a voice charged with emotion, he emphasized that it was he who had given the directive that the elections of 1951 be carried on in a clean and orderly manner, no matter what party was going to win or lose. “I want that repeated in the coming elections even if to sacrifice your commander-in-chief,” the President directed. This order of the Chief Executive was met by a thunderous applause. The President said: “Let candidates lose; let parties lose; let men nearest to your hearts lose in the coming elections; but we must not lose the prestige and the strength of the democracy we have established here for we have to sacrifice everything in the name of democracy.”

March 5:

Showing concern over the welfare of the Philippine Armed Forces officers and men fighting in Korea, the President certified to Congress the urgency of enactment of Bill No. 3565, authorizing payment, of family subsistence allowance of officers and men who will be assigned for combat duties overseas. It provides for funds for the purpose, to be charged against any appropriation, for PEFTOK or against any savings from the Department of National Defense appropriations for the current fiscal year, unlike Republic Act No. 573 enacted to serve the same purpose but which failed to provide the necessary funds.

In a general convocation of some 15,000 faculty and students of the University of the East at 4:30 p.m., the President subtly stated that his running for re-election or not should be based on the correct answer to the question: Who is best, prepared, hence needed, to lead the country today? In explaining the qualifications that should be possessed by the man to be elected to lead the nation today, the President said that it is necessary to examine first the position the country finds itself in, and then determine the qualities of the men who aspire to lead it. He pointed out: “It is not the question of who wants to lead the country, but of who is best qualified and needed to lead the country.” He traced the different epochs through which the Philippines went in its long struggle for independence and progress. He roughly enumerated five epochs, each with its own type of leaders. Considering that the present is an epoch of rehabilitation reconstruction, and development, the President posed this question: “Who is going to lead this country in this epoch? Shall it be the type of Rizal, Aguinaldo, Quezon, or Roxas? Or shall it be another type, one that combines in quality, experience, knowledge, outlook, and experience—one who has lived with this epoch in which we are striving hard to maintain our position and preserve the liberty and freedom that is in our hand?”

March 6:

Delegations from the northern tip of Luzon down to Basilan in the southernmost tip of Zamboanga called on the President at Malacañan to pledge their support and loyalty to him and his administration. There were seven groups who called, representing people from all walks of life—public school teachers, Moros from Basilan, guerrillas from all over the country, farmers, factory workers, and employees. Resolutions and cablegrams are also pouring in from the different parts of the country pledging support of the President. Sulu Governor Gulamu Rasul informed the President by telegram that the 21 Sulu district mayors are solidly behind him and strongly urge his reelection.

After having been informed in the morning of the death of Stalin, the President stated in a written statement: “Stalin’s passing may not necessarily mean the end of communism or the aggressive forces that it has created to disrupt an orderly world”

At 4:45 p.m., the President review a colorful fluvial parade put up in his honor by the Feati Institute of Technology on the occasion of its 7th anniversary. The President, together with his granddaughter Marivic, received cheers and applause from the students of 17 gaily decorated motorboats of different sizes as the fluvial parade circled, then stopped upon passing by the palace balcony where the Chief Executive reviewed the parade.

The President signed in the evening the first bill, H. B. No. 2236, approved by the current session of Congress, in the presence of its authors, Representatives Ramon Mitra and Esmeraldo Eco. This bill seeks to amend section 246 of the National Internal Revenue Code by providing that 5 per cent of the royalties on mineral lands not covered by lease shall accrue to the municipality where the mines are situated.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President signed Proclamation No. 373, declaring Wednesday, March 19, 1953, as “Fight Cancer Day.” The proclamation enjoins all the people to take part in the crusade against cancer. He also signed Proclamation No. 372, including the province of Pangasinan among the places in the Philippines to promote the production and sale of enriched rice.

The Cabinet denied the petition of the board of directors of the Philippine Book Dealers Association, Inc., for the extension of the lifting of the ban on the importation of elementary textbooks up to July 1, 1954. The petition was turned down in order to encourage the printing of elementary textbooks in the Philippines.

March 7:

The President at noon underscored before the superintendent of schools gathered in Vigan the necessity of imparting religious instruction to the children. Amplifying the stand he enunciated two days before the University of the East on the burning issue of religious instruction in the public schools, the Chief Executive declared: “I don’t care whether you are Masons or Protestants Let us give a chance to our children without breaking established rules. I want you to liberalize the rules on religious instructions.” The directive was given to Education Secretary Cecilio Putong before some 100 division superintendents of schools, during the luncheon he gave in their honor in a nipa hut in the middle of the lagoon inside the Quirino stadium. In response to queries from newspapermen in connection with speculations that he might withdraw from the presidential race in favor of another aspirant, the President said that he is definitely running for re-election if only to prove the falsity of the claim of his detractors that he had won by fraud in the 1949 elections. He told the newsmen he will run on his record of clean and honest government, on his accomplishments in the economic and industrial field, on the elevation of the Republic’s prestige abroad—in short on building this country to what it is today from what it was in 1945 when the country had to start from scratch.

March 8:

The President won the love and affection of athletes from all over the country when he visited them at their quarters and mess halls in Vigan “to see if they were being treated well.” The students loudly cheered him with *mabuhays*. They applauded the President when he sampled the food that they were being served at the mess.

Before leaving Vigan at 3 p.m., the President awarded the giant Quirino trophy to the East Visayan delegation which won the BPSIAA general championship. The Chief Executive returned to Manila at 4:30 p.m. to fulfill two

important engagements—the decoration of Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo and a dinner given by Import Control Commissioner and Mrs. Primitivo Lovina.

In the evening the President decorated Spanish Minister Artajo with the Philippine decoration “Lakan de la Order de Sikatuna” during impressive ceremonies at the Malacañan ceremonial hail. In the presence of the highest Philippine officialdom and the members of the diplomatic corps, Philippine Ambassador to Spain Manuel V. Moran read the citation before the conferment of the decoration by the President.

During an impromptu press conference with Malacañan reporters, just after the decoration of the Spanish Minister, the President said that if Senator Jose P. Laurel nominates and launches the candidacy of Ramon Magsaysay as presidential candidate of the Nacionalista Party, it means that Laurel is afraid to fight him (President Quirino) in the coming presidential elections. The President added that if Laurel does not nominate Magsaysay, that means that he will double-cross Magsaysay. He told reporters that he does not know whom the Nacionalista Party would nominate as their standard bearer, but that one thing the Nacionalistas can be sure of is that they will have their opponent in him, President Quirino, in the coming presidential fight.

When asked by the reporters if there was any purge in the armed forces of the Philippines as reported, the President said that there is no such purge. He explained that what is actually happening is that some officers are resigning their posts. He added that some officers are being reassigned, which is natural in view of the fact that there is a new Acting Secretary of National Defense.

March 9:

The President received Speaker Protempore Domingo Veloso who called to report on his recent trip abroad. Accompanied by Governor Bernardo Torres of Leyte, Veloso assured the President that Leyte is behind him in his bid for re-election. Private Secretary Juan Collas also brought the President a stock of telegrams from provincial and municipal officials as well as various political leaders from all over the country pledging full support and loyalty, following his announcement in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, that he was definitely running for re-election.

March 10:

The President signed during the Cabinet meeting Proclamations Nos. 374, 375, and 376, setting aside 156,000 hectares of public lands for reformed Huks and dissidents who want to return to peaceful life. These public lands are located in Cotabato, Lanao, and Nueva Vizcaya. They will be administered by the armed forces under the auspices of the Economic Development Corps (EDCOR) for surrendered and captured Huks. Malacañan said the EDCOR is not Magsaysay’s idea as the CAO had made it appear to be. The project was conceived by President Quirino and Vice President Lopez when the two top officials discussed ways of implementing the land for the landless policy as a means of attracting dissidents to return to the life of peace, Malacañan points out.

The President received Armi Kuusela, Miss Universe of 1952, who called at Malacañan in the morning to pay her respects, following her arrival the preceding day. The visit of the Finnish beauty lasted for half an hour. The President exchanged impressions with her on a wide range of subjects, from the weather to fishing.

March 11:

Before cheering crowd of some 4,000 U.P. students assembled at their auditorium in the afternoon, the President, in his fightingest speech since his announcement of his re-election bid, charged Senator Jose P. Laurel with evading payment of income tax and with illegal drawing of salary during the last days of the Japanese occupation. He flung back at Laurel the Senator’s charge that the Administration has robbed the people of their wealth and freedom. These irresponsible talks are destroying the people’s confidence in the government, the President said, and added: “The trouble with Senator Laurel is that he does not particularize. If he only said Quirino robbed the people of the wealth of the country, then I can defend myself. But when he said this administration robbed the people of their wealth, it is an indictment against the Government and against the administration, in simple sense seditious conclusion. You better look out and watch him,” the Chief Executive exhorted. The President won the hearts of his

audience when he told them on the spot that he was turning over to the University of the Philippines some 50 AGRD buildings for the use of the faculty and the students.

March 12:

The President told officers of the 14th Battalion Combat Team “to keep up the splendid record of our armed forces in Korea.” These remarks were made when the Chief Executive signed at noon the bill providing funds for the implementation of Republic Act No. 573, which failed to provide funds for allowances of officers and enlisted men of the armed forces fighting abroad. The bill was signed in the presence of staff officers of the 14th BCT headed by their commanding officer, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, the acting head of the department of national defense, the chief of staff of the AFP, Speaker Perez, and Senators Angeles David and Pecson.

The President ordered the dismissal of Sultan Bato AH as mayor of Dansalan City, in Lanao, following recommendations of the Integrity Board which found him guilty of a number of administrative charges, Malacañan announced. The order of dismissal is contained in Administrative Order No. 208. It does not preclude the taking of such criminal action against Bato Ali “as the facts of the case may warrant.” Ali was found guilty of illegal exaction of fees, misappropriation of government funds and property, and abuse of authority.

Malacañan also announced that the President had authorized Internal Revenue Collector Saturnino David to make public his income tax returns. The directive came in the wake of newspaper reports that the BIR had gone after top Nacionalista leaders for non-payment of their income tax. The President has been paying his income tax on his salary as President of the Philippines, notwithstanding a Supreme Court ruling that. Constitutional officers are exempt from payment of income tax on salaries. The amount of P222 is deducted from his pay envelope every 15 days as withholding tax. Malacañan also said that regardless of party affiliations, all persons who have been reported or known to have amassed wealth without paying taxes have been assessed.

At the testimonial tea he gave in honor of the UNAC (United Nations Appeal for Children) officials and workers at the Malacañan social hall, the president sounded the call to join the “great, crusade for the uplift and benefit of our children.” Although the President was not scheduled to speak, he was requested to say a few words by UNAC Chairman Asuncion A. Perez and to distribute plaques to live prominent UNAC officials.

Later in the evening, during the dinner given at Malacañan in honor of Frank Belgrano, head of the mission looking into the state of U.S. assistance program, the President was told by Belgrano that “you have done a remarkable job of rehabilitation since 1945.” Belgrano said he was amazed at the speed by which the government has rehabilitated the country and at the growth and progress in the economic and industrial field, as a result of President Quirino’s total, economic mobilization program. The President assured Belgrano that for his part the Philippines will continue to fulfill its part in the assistance program, as agreed upon in the Quirino-Foster agreement. He also told Belgrano that this country will continue to be the bulwark of Democracy in this side of the world, and that, at any cost, he shall insure clean and honest elections.

March 13:

The President signed House Bill No. 2697, authorizing the appropriation of P20 million annually for a period of five years for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement and repair of public elementary school buildings. The sum will be appropriated yearly beginning with the fiscal year 1953-54, out of any funds in the national treasury not otherwise appropriated. In his message to the House of Representatives, the President said that he had approved the bill notwithstanding the fact that it suffers from a defect which, in his opinion, nullifies the urgent objectives of the measure. He asked Congress to correct such defect.

At the Cabinet meeting in the evening, the President also signed Proclamation No. 378, aiming to implement the administration’s program of social amelioration in rural areas. In the presence of provincial officials of Nueva Ecija, the President proclaimed around 650 hectares of land in the municipality of Bongabong, Nueva Ecija, to serve for rural reconstruction purposes. The land will be under the administration of the Social Welfare Administration and will be used for model settlements for people in the rural areas. It will serve as a pilot plant.

Also signed by the President during the Cabinet meeting, was Proclamation No. 377, reserving 1,500 hectares of land in the boundary of Bongabong and Laur, Nueva Ecija, for the future site of the capitol of the province, in accordance with the plan to transfer the capital of Nueva Ecija from Cabanatuan City to the Bongabong and Laur areas.

March 14:

The President gave a tea party in honor of Miss Armi Kuusela, Miss Universe of 1952, at Malacañan Palace in the evening. Miss Kuusela for the first time wore a white mestiza dress at the tea party. Miss Cristina Galang, Miss Philippines of 1953, and the other national beauties elected in connection with the Philippines International Fair beauty contest were special guests at the Malacañan tea party.

In answer to queries of newspapermen who interviewed him during the tea party, the President said that the unity of all elements in the Liberal Party is surely coming at the right moment. "*Juslon ton bumlad*," he said in Hocano, meaning it will all be good and ready in due time. The Chief Executive emphasized that, one of the principal objectives of the Liberal Party is to wipe out communism from the Philippines. This means, he said that the Liberal Party will have to act against all those who are friendly to communist agents in the country and against those who gave them support. Queried if Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo will remain in his concurrent position in the defense department, the President said that Castelo knows his job and is doing it very well.

March 15:

In his 53rd monthly radio chat in the evening, the President condemned the opposition party for waging a campaign of disparagement and hate, and appealed to the people to use their best judgment in order to see the issues clearly despite the well organized and "richly fancid" propaganda of the opposition to mislead them. He cited some of the issues in the political campaign now underway, including that of democracy in the country, and the successful economic and industrial program. He told the nation that democracy has been preserved and cultivated in the land, and that despite much heckling, detraction, and obstructionism, his administration has forged ahead, steadily to improve the lot of the people, to make them live in prosperity and security.

The President, moreover, gave the reason for running for reelection, which he said was to follow the wishes of the Liberal Party of which he is the head, and "to show that under my administration and direct responsibility, we can have this year another record of a free, orderly, and clean elections." He declared, "I am determined to maintain at all costs a free and honest expression of the people's supreme will."

March 16:

In an extemporaneous speech at the convocation held in the evening in the little theater of the Adamson University, the President said that the Government is determined to make the Philippines "an exemplary country in democracy, in peace, and in happiness in this part of the world." He invited the youth to devote all their time and energy in cooperating with the Government to achieve this end, "for the maintenance of our Government's stability, name, and dignity." He told them to prepare themselves to meet the requirements of world readjustment. He said the country today is confronted with a greater problem which never before had confronted the leaders of this nation in its different epochs. The President's remarks were roundly applauded by the more than 2,000 students who jam-packed the little theater.

Shortly before midnight, the President left the Palace for Pier 5 where he boarded the yacht *Apo* on his trip to Iloilo where he will attend the celebration of the anniversary of the liberation of Panay.

March 17:

The President announced to newspapermen that he had accepted effective immediately the resignation of Mariano Jesus Cuenco as Economic Coordination Administrator. At the same time, the President announced the designation

of Gov. Sergio Osmeña, Jr., as acting head of the OEC. The announcement was made about 1:45 p.m. before the President took his lunch with Vice-President Fernando Lopez, Governor Osmeña, Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, and the newspapermen and other guests, as the yacht *Apo* was on the way to Odiongan, Romblon, for an unscheduled call at 4 p.m. Earlier the President had received a message from Secretary Marciano Roque informing him of Secretary Cuenco's irrevocable resignation effective on March 20. The President accepted the resignation effective immediately and swore Governor Osmeña into office.

March 18:

The President was accorded a royal welcome upon his arrival in Iloilo City about 9 a.m., aboard the yacht *Apo*, following a 33-hour sea voyage from Manila. A fluvial parade made up of a long line of gaily decorated motorboats carrying brass bands and groups of local beauties met the yacht at the approaches of the city port. At the head of the parade was a boarding party of city officials headed by Mayor Dominador Jover who came aboard the yacht as it cruised leisurely into the bay. A multitude of cheering people were, on hand at the wharf to give the presidential party a rousing welcome. After acknowledging the noisy reception accorded him at the wharf, the President boarded a car and led a long motorcade to the cemetery where he laid a wreath in memory of guerrilla heroes who died in the liberation of Panay from the Japanese. He was accompanied by Senator Macario Peralta, Jr., Mayor Francisco Ofemaria, vice commander of the Philippine veterans legion and commander of the Panay veterans, and local officials and veterans.

Speaking before a multitudinous crowd estimated at more than 100,000 assembled at Sunburst Park in Iloilo City in the evening, the President said that he had lost a man who had fallen into the hands of someone who would make him a dummy because he is afraid to fight alone. He said he had lost a man who could have helped him in the work of settling the claims of veterans and guerrillas of Panay, but who, instead, is now busy campaigning against the Chief Executive. Again without mentioning names, the President likened the career of the former government official alluded to, to a racket that had risen, high then exploded. He assailed those who would, make of the government as an experiment and who would want to ride it to greatness. In a ringing voice, the President emphasized that for leaders, the government needs men who have the heart and soul, who are well prepared in the art of government, who can give the government honor and prestige, and who can promote friendship with other nations of the world. He criticized those leaders of the opposition who would justify revolution now but did not advocate revolution during the time when our people were oppressed by foreign invaders. The President then praised the Panay veterans for their patriotism and service to the country, pointing to them as models for others to follow.

March 19:

The President returned shortly before noon aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan*, which landed on Nichols airfield, from a one-day visit to Iloilo.

Talking briefly with some Malacañan newsmen at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel where he attended the party held after the wedding of Mita, a daughter of Vice President Lopez, to Alfredo Montelibano, Jr., the President expressed satisfaction over the result of his visit to Iloilo, saying that, it has "strengthened Liberal Party unity." He said he based his appraisal on the pledges of support of all local leaders of the Liberal Party who attended the conference at the Casino Español on March 18.

March 20:

During his conference with a large delegation of Pangasinan municipal treasurers who called on him at noon, the President called upon all municipal treasurers throughout the country to safeguard, the sanctity of the polls in their respective localities "no matter who wins or loses." He said: "You are the eyes and ears of the commission on elections in your municipalities. Protect the ballots well. I don't care who wins or loses provided the election will be clean, honest, and orderly." Thirty-four of Pangasinan's 45 municipal treasurers came to Manila to confer with national officials on matters affecting their respective localities. Accompanied by Representative Jose L. de Guzman, they called at Malacañan to pay their respects.

March 21:

The President motored to Nichols airbase at 10 a.m. to receive four PBV Aircraft (amphibious planes) and military motor vehicles which form the latest military assistance from the United States to the Philippines in accordance with the military assistance pact. He was accompanied to the airbase by Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo, and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque. Present at the ceremonies were U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, Maj. Gen. Albert Pierson, JUSMAG Chief, and high officials of the Philippine Armed Forces and the United States Army. President Quirino and Ambassador Spruance pledged anew the armed might of the U.S. and the Philippines to fight side by side to check the spread of communism and tyranny in this part of the world. The President said categorically that as far as the Filipinos are concerned, "we will play our role loyally to the fullest extent here and everywhere with American friends for the maintenance of democracy throughout the world."

Soldiers and officers of the 14th BCT cheered the President when he paid them a surprise call and inspired them to victory. The President bade them Godspeed prior to their departure for the Korean battlefield with the words: "I sent ahead of you my only son and my son-in-law to offer their blood in the defense of democracy. Thus, my pride will be that with my own flesh and blood, I shall have participated in your coming struggle and victory for the honor and prestige of our country." The boys of the 14th BCT were so touched by the President's words that there was hushed silence among them as they listened to their Commander-in-Chief.

March 22:

Speaking at the inauguration of the P100,000 Rural Bank of Novaliches in the evening, the President said that the Government today has veered its attention from prompting the interest of the rich to improving the living conditions of the masses of people in the rural areas. This, he pointed out, is readily seen in the establishment of rural banks and providing credit facilities to the rural folk which is an effective means of implementing the Government's total economic mobilization program. He added that today the Government is decentralizing its attention, "democratizing, ruralizing, and disurbanizing" it so that it could look after the needs of the "small man, the forgotten man, the down-trodden, the homeless, and the landless. This, he pointed out, "is the central idea of the total economic mobilization program."

March 23:

The President authorized the release of P3,987,000 for the maintenance; improvement, or construction of interprovincial and coast to coast roads or network of roads subject to unusually heavy traffic. The amount will be allocated out of the balance of P6,427,000 of the highways special fund.

Veterans representing the Philippine Veterans Legion, the United Disabled Veterans of the Philippines, war widows, and other organizations affiliated with the CONVETS staged a loyalty rally at Malacañan in the afternoon to denounce the attempt of some veterans leaders to utilize different veterans organizations as a tool to promote the interests of some politicians. Leaders of the various veterans organizations in Luzon took turns in lambasting Ramon Magsaysay, former Secretary of National Defense, for having neglected the cause of Filipino veterans. They also took turns in reiterating their pledge of support and loyalty to the President, saying that their respective organizations could not be so ingrate and disloyal to the man whose administration had given them all the benefits and who, they said, is ever willing to give more. Some 1,000 men and women who filled the spacious social hall warmly applauded the speeches, especially the extemporaneous remarks of the President.

The President lashed out at men who pledge loyalty, devotion, love, and affection, using the term calculatingly only as a shibboleth, although the cause for that loyalty had never been there before. He did not mention names, but he told the veteran groups: "I suppose you understand me, my friends," He added: "Men are nothing but incidents, but the problems of the country are so fundamental that they also need to be dealt with fundamentally in connection with the principles and the thoughts of everyone who aspires to lead the country It is more important for you to know your country as it is today than to know the men who aspire to lead it."

The President gave lie to the claim of the new Nacionalista Party which he said is trying to invoke the old prestige of the Nacionalista Party. According to him, the present Nacionalista Party is not the same as the NP of Quezon and Osmeña. He pointed out that the present members of the Nacionalista Party were in the Democrata Party, but they left the Democrata Party and joined the Nacionalista Consolidado to gain power. He said President Osmeña continued as a Nacionalista but he was riot president of the party when he was here, but Rodriguez.

Then the President asked: "Who has built the name of the country? . . . Who has given you all this atmosphere of peace and stability, and who has given you a new name, the new prestige and the new love and affection and respect of allies abroad? Who? The Nacionalistas?" He thundered, "No! It is the Liberal Party."

March 24:

The President issued Proclamation No. 381, declaring April 9, 1953, as Bataan Day. In issuing the proclamation, the President said that the "commemoration of the Fall of Bataan is a fitting homage to the unparalleled heroism of Filipino and American forces who, despite overwhelming odds, fought side by side to the last in their stubborn defense of freedom and democracy in this part of the globe." He further stated that the, "Fall of Bataan symbolizes the enduring ties of affection, friendship, and cooperation that bind the Philippines and the United States."

The President also signed Proclamation No. 380, declaring April 4, 1953, a special holiday as it falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Executive Order No. 575, terminating the collection of tolls at the Sulipan cut-off-channel bridge in Pampanga was also signed by the Chief Executive, effective upon the receipt of a copy of the executive order by the provincial treasurer of Pampanga.

Then, during the Cabinet meeting in the afternoon, the President signed four other executive orders as follows: (1) Executive Order No. 578, changing the limitations in the income of patients admitted in government hospitals and charity clinics in accordance with the present marked fluctuations of the standard of living; (2) Executive Order No. 579, reducing the ceiling prices of galvanized plain wire by an average of about 25.42 per cent owing to the reduction of landed costs and CIF prices, (3) Executive Order No. 580, fixing for the first time the ceiling prices of Pillsbury Best. Enriched cake flour; and (4) Executive Order No. 577, reducing the office hours of government offices to five hours, from April 1 to June 15, 1953.

March 25:

The President approved the recommendation of the Price Administration Board revising the importer's and wholesaler's ceiling prices for antiphlogistine and Scott tissue paper. The revision has been made to adjust the margins of profit of the dealers. No change is made on the retailer's ceiling prices for the public.

The President motored to the Pro-Cathedral at Aviles, San Miguel, in the evening to congratulate Archbishop Rufino J. Santos upon his consecration to the highest position of a Filipino in the Catholic hierarchy of the Philippines.

March 26:

The President authorized the trip abroad of the three delegates to the 8th Congress of the International Society of Sugarcane Technologists to be held in the British West Indies in April and May this year. The delegates who will represent the Philippines in the world Congress are Salvador B. Oliveros, technical consultant of the Philippine Sugar Institute; Carlos L. Locsin, technical director of the Victorias Milling Company; and Jose J. Mirasol, executive officer of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters. The expenses amounting to P24,000 will be borne by the Philippine Sugar Institute which is sponsoring the trip of the delegates abroad.

March 27:

The President received in the morning former Illinois Governor Adlai E. Stevenson, head of the Democrata Party in the United States, who called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila the previous day in the course of an

“orientation trip” in the Far East. Accompanied by Barry Bingham, editor and publisher of the Louiseville Courier Journal, and Ambassador Raymond Spruance and Foreign Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Governor Stevenson arrived at Malacañan shortly after 11 a.m. For some 30 minutes, Stevenson exchanged impressions with the President on the world situation, especially with reference to the developments in the Far East.

At the inauguration ceremonies in the evening of the Vicks International factory at, Makati, Rizal, the President said that the Philippine economic progress has been due largely to the cooperation of foreign investors in carrying out the government’s economic development program. He said the government has discarded its “overnationalistic” policy because “we realize that during these times there is such a thing as international interdependence not only in the security of our respective countries but in the development, especially of our natural resources and other potentialities.”

March 28:

The President enplaned at 9 a.m. for Baguio where he expects to spend the weekend. Included in the presidential entourage were Miss Armi Kuusela, 1952 Miss Universe; Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez and members of the Quirino family; and a group of Manila newspapermen and Palace staff.

March 29:

The President gave a luncheon in honor of Governor Adlai Stevenson at the Picnic Grove of the Guest House in Baguio. In introducing his guest, the President expressed regret that the visiting statesman should arrive here at a time when conditions are not well settled and when Filipinos are engaged in “too early political commotion,” which may lead to misrepresentation of actual situation in this country. He expressed confidence, however, that analytical as Governor Stevenson is and with his keen sense of perception, the Governor would see through the criticisms of detractors of the government and carry home a fair appraisal of conditions obtaining here.

In his speech Governor Stevenson declared that the Philippines is one of the most favored countries in this part of the world. He observed that conditions in the Philippines are very much better than those of other countries surrounding her. He said that coming to the Philippines is not like going to a foreign country because one comes to people who share American traditions, inspirations, and objectives. He said that the Philippines is the first great laboratory demonstration of what America feels—government by the people, government with the consent of the governed. “Here in the Philippines is a great bastion of the faith America holds so dear,” Governor Stevenson said.

March 30:

The President returned to Manila shortly before 12 noon aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan* following a two-day sojourn in Baguio. Asked to comment on the attitude of several congressmen who are initiating the recall of Ambassador Spruance he issued the following statement.

“It is unnecessary for me to comment on the remarks and attitudes on the alleged interference of the United States Embassy in Philippine politics. Each one is free to react on what he sees and observes. It is unfortunate that the Embassy is being dragged into the local political picture after it has announced its strict neutrality. The trouble is, there are people who, for local political effect, assume to be spokesmen of the United States government and this is what is disturbing the mind of our people who have no recourse to the direct and genuine source of information on the matter.”

In the evening, the President signed Proclamation No. 383, reserving an area of 3,223.3284 hectares for settlement purposes by Panay veterans. The proclamation was signed in the presence of Senator Macario Peralta, Jr., and officers of the Panay veterans. The proclamation revokes Proclamation No. 322, series of 1952, which reserves a parcel of land in the municipalities of Lambunao and Catinog in the province of Iloilo, intended for the national agricultural reservation in Iloilo.

March 31:

The President in the morning blasted away Magsaysay's claim for the EDCOR saying that Magsaysay never was present in the original conference to form the EDCOR. He said the project was taken up among himself, the Vice President, and Maj. Gen. Duque last year on board the yacht *Apo*, while on their way to Corregidor with President Sukarno. This statement was confirmed by Vice President Lopez and Maj. Gen. Duque who were with the presidential party aboard the *Apo* when the President made the statement. The President gave credit to Senator Osias for a suggestion that a traveling agricultural school be included in the original EDCOR program. Even the idea to use surrenderees for the EDCOR was not Magsaysay's idea, the President said, which statement was corroborated by Maj. Gen. Duque. However, the President admitted that Magsaysay implemented the EDCOR idea. but stressed that though Magsaysay gave "perspiration," the inspiration certainly was not his. Maj. Gen. Duque also revealed that it was he who conceived the plan for clean election in 1951, especially the drafting of ROTC cadets.

President Quirino's total economic mobilization program took on a more concrete form and assumed more significance when the Chief Executive inaugurated the P16 million NASSCO shipyard in Mariveles, Bataan. The inauguration of the NASSCO shipyard and drydocks was the first in the series of inaugurations of gigantic government projects scheduled to be finished this year as envisaged in the President's total economic mobilization program. In his speech, the President said that the establishment of the drydock and shipyard is one of the means to show that the country can be industrialized. This, he added, augurs well for the industrialization of the Philippines which "has always been regarded only as a producer of raw materials to supply the requirements of industrial countries." The presidential party arrived at Mariveles aboard the yacht *Apo* at 11:30 a.m. The m.s. *Doña Aurora*, carrying some 800 people from Manila to attend the inauguration, trailed the presidential yacht *Apo*.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: April, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1:

The President arrived in Baguio about 10 a.m. after a 45-minute flight from Manila aboard the *Laong Loan*. Prior to his departure for Baguio, he vetoed House Bill No. 2717, which seeks to exempt vendors at retail in public markets from payment of the fixed tax on business and from issuing receipts. In his veto, the President explained that the proposed amendment of section 182 of the National Internal Revenue Code would tempt retailers of imported food products outside public markets to channel said products into public markets where they may be sold without payment of the fixed tax as provided in the National Internal Revenue Code. The President likewise did not find merit in the proposal to exempt public market retailers from issuing sales invoices which are necessary not only for, business tax purposes but also as part of the accounting records of the taxpayer in support of the entries in his journal.

Asked by newsmen to comment on Secretary Oscar Castelo's interpretation of the Election Law prohibiting foreigners from meddling in Philippine elections, the President said that he is taking a liberal attitude on the interpretation of the Electoral Law. He said mere expression by foreigners of the quality and qualifications of candidates does not constitute meddling in politics. What is prohibited, he said, is active partisan campaigning of foreigners in favor or against a candidate. The President declared: "I don't believe Secretary Castelo was accurately quoted because that would be strictly interpreting the law. We don't want to muzzle anyone. This is a free country."

April 2:

The President motored to Poro Point in the morning with Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Rufino, and newspapermen whom he invited for a swim at Poro Point. The presidential party reached Poro at 10:30. Asked to comment on news report that his son-in-law was resigning his commission in the Army to run for Congress in Pangasinan's fifth district, the President said, "He changed his mind." The President's statement is believed to be based on a cable from Chito informing his wife Vicky of the medal awarded to him for having completed 20 combat missions in Korea.

April 3:

The President spent Holy Friday quietly at the naval base with only a few aides to keep him company. At noon he launched with Col. Benito Ebuena and Col. Leon Hernandez, former presidential pilot and air aide. The two airforce officers arrived at Poro Point in the morning to say goodbye to the President. Colonel Ebuena is leaving soon for a 12-day observation of U. N. airforce operation in Korea and Japan, while Hernandez is due to depart on April 2 to assume his new post as air attache in the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D. C.

April 4:

The President called a meeting of the Cabinet at Poro Point at noon. During the Cabinet meeting the President approved the aide-memoire prepared by the Department of Foreign Affairs in reply to the reparations proposal submitted recently by the Japanese government through Eiji Wajima, head of the Japanese reparations mission which came to Manila. The aide-memoir is based on the recommendation of the presidential 19-man reparation committee which studied the Japanese proposal embodying a formula whereby Japan offers to satisfy the Philippine reparations claim.

After consultation with his Cabinet, the President also:

1. Signed House Bill No. 213 which becomes Republic Act No. 839, providing for the condonation of all debts incurred by provincial, city, and municipal governments for the construction of government buildings and waterwork systems which were later destroyed during World War II;
2. Approved Philippine participation in the 6th World Health Assembly which will convene on May 5 in Geneva, Switzerland;
3. Issued Executive Order No. 582, decreasing and setting up new ceiling prices for grade pads, intermediate pads, and composition notebooks;
4. Authorized Jose U. Jovellanos to represent the National Power Corporation in-connection with the operation of the credit line of the NPC with the Export-Import Bank of Washington for financing the dollar requirements of the Ambuklao hydroelectric project;
5. Issued Executive Order No. 581, placing the importation of tetanus anti-toxin in 10,000 and 20,000-unit vials under the completely decontrolled category; and
6. Signed Proclamation No. 384, declaring April 9, 1953, as special public holiday in the Province of Bataan in commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan.

April 5:

The President discussed with Gov. Sergio Osmeña, Jr., the neutralization of the Cuenco plan to stump the Visayas and Mindanao for Ramon Magsaysay. Results of the conference were not disclosed.

April 6:

Upon arrival in Manila from Poro Point, the President approved the proposal to turn over the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order in the Visayas and Mindanao to the Chief of the Constabulary. The order takes effect on May 1, 1953. The proposal was made by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque and was favorably endorsed by the Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo. The turnover of the responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and order in the Visayas and Mindanao to the constabulary is the result of the considerable improvement in the peace and order situation in the country as a result of President Quirino's relentless drive against lawlessness in order to restore peace and order.

The President appointed Bado Dangwa, transportation magnate in Northern Luzon, as Governor of Mountain Province. He succeeds Jose Mencio who is transferred to another branch of the government.

District and health officers from 52 provinces and 27 chartered cities who are attending the first day of their fifth annual convention in Manila, called at Malacañan in the evening to pay their respects to the President and to pledge their support and loyalty to the administration. In his extemporaneous remarks, the President said there is a systematic and malicious campaign borne out of jealousy and the desire to destroy what the administration has been building, "a malicious intent to distort facts in order to gain advantage and patronage in the public mind for political or partisan reason." He called on the health officers all over the country to take an active part in an aggressive information campaign to counteract the aggressive misinformation waged by the ill-wishers of the government. The President warned that this being a pre-electoral period, this tendency to misinform the public will be, more; intensified; hence, he said, "there is need of presenting to our people the real facts, the hard facts, the real facts, the hard facts, the incontrovertible facts the real accomplishments of this administration."

April 7:

Accompanied by Senator Tomas Cabin and former Senator Salipada Pendatun, two rival leaders in Sulu, Gov. Hadji Gulamu Rasul and Rep Ombra Amilbangsa, appeared before the President at Malacañan and decided to bury the hatchet in order that they could work together to support President Quirino in the Moroland.

At 11 a.m., the President received United States Undersecretary of State. Robert D. Murphy. He was accompanied by Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. The visiting U. S. State official conferred with the President for about half an hour. It is presumed that matters affecting relations between the Philippines and Japan were taken up during the half-hour call, although the President said afterwards that the visit was a courtesy call.

The President signed Republic Act No. 840, classifying chartered cities, except Manila, Baguio, and Quezon Cities, according to their annual revenues and fixing the salaries of the officials thereof. He also signed Republic Act No. 841, designating the district and city engineers to take charge of reconstructing, maintaining, protecting, and cleaning monuments and historical markers situated within their respective jurisdictions and regulating the construction or manufacture of such structure or plaque to perpetuate the memory of a person or event.

The Cabinet approved the recommendation of Secretary of Education Cecilio Putong regarding the policies which have been formulated by the Government Advisory Board for In-service Training to guide the operation of the institute for the in-service training of officials and employees of the government. In keeping with the President's policy of achieving greater efficiency and economy in government operations and in giving more service to the people, a plan of in-service training for government officials and employees is being established through the Institute of Public Administration of the University of the Philippines.

In an extemporaneous address at the inauguration of the new Philippine Columbian Association clubhouse on Taft Avenue in the evening, the President appealed to all Filipinos to assume the joint responsibility of nation building which can be achieved by positive thinking. He said that the urgent need of the day is positive thinking and the putting of "our heads together" in order to make the country stronger and more enduring. The President expressed the hope that as a result of the rehabilitation of the Philippine Columbian Association clubhouse, the association can continue its constructive work in the past of serving as a sounding board on all national problems of great importance which used to be discussed, to guide the people.

The President left aboard the yacht *Apo* about 11 p.m., for Cebu in a determined bid to win the Visayan vote for his re-election.

April 8:

The President in a press conference held shortly after lunch, just as the yacht *Apo* was sailing off Romblon on its way to Cebu, said that the Liberal Party has been strengthened rather than weakened by the defections of some of its leaders. He pointed out that the defections serve to eliminate the "undesirables" from the party. The President said that with all these defections, the Liberal Party is now in a much better position to win. The best evidence of its strength is the fact that Senator Jose P. Laurel and Claro M, Recto refused to fight for the presidency. "With these defections," the President said, "I will not ride on two horses like an acrobat." Commenting on the withdrawal of the BCT's from the Visayas and Mindanao, he said that the army could concentrate its force on the dissidents holding out in Central Luzon. He said its withdrawal will normalize conditions in the Visayas and Mindanao.

April 9:

Upward of 200,000 people gathered at the pier and at the plaza of Cebu to welcome the President. The mammoth demonstration started at the entrance of Cebu harbor. Launches, barges, and tugs with multicolored flags and buntings took part in the colorful fluvial parade. The yacht *Apo* carrying the President entered Cebu harbor at 8. 30 a.m., and for 30 minutes the launches, tugboats, and big ocean and sea steamers in the harbor joined to give ear-splitting sirens. At the pier fireworks joined the noise that gave Cebu City the semblance of Manila's New Year celebration. Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., with provincial and municipal officials of Cebu-province boarded the *Apo* as it steamed into the harbor. Gun salute greeted the President as he came down the gangplank, and shouts of *Mabuhay* rent the air. It was significant that Nacionalista stalwarts of the province like Provincial Board Member

Sotero Cabahug were on hand” to welcome the President. At the Plaza Independencia, Governor Osmeña presented to the President a resolution written on a scroll and signed by 50 but of the 52 Cebu mayors, pledging to support the President’s re-election “without mental reservation.”

In his extemporaneous speech at Plaza Independencia, the President placed squarely the eradication of graft and corruption as one of his reelection issues. He said that it was merely on this issue that he had won the election of 1949, and that on this issue he would win again in the coming elections. The President was roundly applauded when he recalled how he had restored democracy in the holding of clean elections in Cebu, which he did by backing up the Osmeña group. In so acting, he said, he had to break away from old political friends and that as a consequence he had become a “political leper” to some politicians who-attack him everywhere, even in Congress. Before the Chief Executive spoke, he inducted into office Vicente del Rosario and Carlos Cuizon as acting mayor and acting vice-mayor of Cebu City, respectively.

At a luncheon given in his honor by various civic organizations in Cebu at the Club Filipino, the President called on civic organizations in Cebu to dovetail their constructive efforts with those of the government program of economic development and industrialization and assume the responsibility of making this young Republic a happy and enduring one. He deplored that much political talk during this election year are aimed to distract national attention and concentration to the country’s effort to build our economy. He said it is necessary for him to make trips to provinces to indoctrinate the people on the constructive efforts of the government because of the systematic campaign to belittle or ignore what has been accomplished by the administration by negative-thinking politicians.

In the evening, the President called on the graduates of the University of the Visayas to adjust themselves to the complex problems of the present age in which we live. He urged the youth to prepare themselves to achieve greater heights. We are progressing and we should continue to progress; we should not be content with mediocrity, the President said. About 10,000 people packed the campus of the university and the adjoining streets to listen to the President’s extemporaneous commencement address. Loud cheers greeted the President when he entered the campus, and people from the street struggled to get a closer view of him when he left for the yacht *Apo* after delivering his speech.

Malacañan announced that in a message to President Quirino on the commemoration of Bataan Day, this day, April 9, President Eisenhower said that “the great tradition of Bataan and Corregidor will be honored by the continued cooperation of our two countries and by our firm adherence to the principles of the United Nations.”

April 10:

Speaking at noon at the Club Filipino before national, provincial, city, and municipal officials of Cebu province, the President stressed the fact that the breaking of the back of the dissident movement was achieved not by one man alone who is now being advertised like ordinary goods. “This,” he said, “has been achieved by joint government action under my leadership. The President banged his fist on the table to emphasize his point. He lashed at former Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay for claiming full credit for the government efforts in breaking the back of the dissident movement in the Philippines.

In the evening, speaking as commencement speaker at the South-western Colleges in Cebu City, the President accused the Nacionalistas of abusing democracy by injecting hatred and a threat of revolution in the current election campaign: He said that in the United States the opposing candidates never threaten each other, much less the stability of- the country, even: in the heat of the campaign. But this is not so here, he said. “He pointed out that while the people are building a new nation, the oppositionists talk of devolution in the event they fail to come out in the elections.

The presidential party sailed for Bacolod, Negros Occidental, at 9 p.m.

April 11:

Following an overnight sea-trip from Cebu City, the President addressed some 10,000 people at the provincial plaza at Bacolod City at 10:30 a.m. He exhorted the people of Negros Occidental to rise higher, work harder, and lay aside politics so that they could concentrate on making their province the premier province in the South. The yacht *Apo* docked at the Bacolod wharf at 9 a.m. A big delegation headed by Governor Miraflores and City Mayor Amante boarded the yacht to greet the Chief Executive.

In the afternoon, the President was the guest speaker of the Lions Club of the Philippines in its fourth annual convention held at the University Club hall of Bacolod City. In his extemporaneous speech the President pointed out to the Lions delegates that his total economic mobilization program which has been the subject of derision of some politicians- is his weapon against communism in the Philippines, adding that the mailed-fist policy is only a temporary and secondary measure. He invited public scrutiny of what had already been achieved in pursuing the program. He mentioned the recent inauguration of the ₱16-million NASSCO shipyard in Mariveles, the Lumot diversion project, the cotton mill at Narvacan, inaugurated last year, the Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plants in Iligan to be inaugurated in ^May, and the steel mills in Overton, also in Iligan, to be inaugurated in September. He also mentioned the ₱100-million Ambuklao power plant to be inaugurated perhaps next year. Regarding the solution of the agrarian problem in the Philippines, the President said that the recommendation in the Hardie report concerning the buying of all areas containing more than six hectares for sale to tenants, is not a solution, as this would be collectivization and communism, pure and simple. He explained that the government has already purchased 44,000 hectares of landed estates-costing about ₱18 million and that the government is still indebted in the amount of ₱14 million owing to lack of funds for the purpose. The President paid tribute to the Lions Club for helping uplift the conditions of the communities where they operate. He warned the Lions, however, that they should not allow themselves to be used "as a tool of some calculating candidates," for the moment they allow this to happen, then they "are doomed to perdition."

April 13:

The President conferred at Malacañan at breakfast in the morning with Speaker Eugenio Perez, president of the Liberal Party, and Senator Quintin Paredes, one of the top men of the party, to exchange impressions on the result of the Nacionalista Party convention held the previous day at the Manila Hotel. There was general satisfaction over the outcome of the Nacionalista Party convention among the top men of the Liberal Party during the breakfast conference. The coming convention of the Liberal Party was discussed in the conference. It was decided to consult other members of the national directorate regarding the date of the LP convention.

Close on the heels of the Nacionalista convention which nominated former Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay as the opposition's standard bearer, the first delegation from Batangas called on President Quirino in the morning to pledge their support to the President Quirino in the morning to pledge their support to the President's re-election bid. The delegation which came from no less than the town of Senator Jose Laurel from Tanauan, Batangas, told the President that now that Doctor Laurel is no longer a candidate there is a widespread feeling in the Tagalog region to switch their support to President Quirino. The delegation was composed of Tanauan political leaders including former Mayor Jorge Collantes, Councilor Severo Perez, Pedro Onate, Francisco Garcia, Sotero Olfate and Luciano Collantes. A large delegation from the Philippine Federation of Labor, headed by its president, Manuel Rodriguez, also called to present a resolution pledging the support of the organization to the President's, reelection and endorsing Vice-President Fernando Lopez as his running mate.

April 14:

The President approved the release of ₱117,790 aid for health work in various provinces where local health funds are insufficient. The sum is chargeable against the lump-sum appropriation of ₱230,000 intended for health aid. The amount was released upon the recommendation of Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr.

In the morning the President had a long conference with Education Secretary Cecilio Putong and Public Schools Director Benito Pangilinan presumably to take up the matter of religious instruction in the public schools.

At the cocktails he gave in the evening at Malacañan to the delegates of the first Pan Pacific TB conference in Manila, the President said that the government's total economic mobilization program is definitely: a preventive measure against tuberculosis. He said that as a result of this program production is being increased, the standard of living is raised, and a life of substance is provided for all, especially for the masses; He pointed out that with the realization of this program, our people will be better equipped, physically and mentally, to overcome the ravages of tuberculosis. Dr. Alfonso Aldama y Contreras of Mexico City, speaking for the delegates and observers, thanked the president for his cooperation, in making the conference possible. He said that each delegate and observer will carry with him a message of friendship and kindness from the Philippines to his respective country.

A delegation of university and college students affiliated with the Philippine Institute of Student Affairs, called on the President in the evening to pledge their support of the policies of the President, especially in the dissemination of truth through a systematic campaign of information enunciated by the President in his speeches in Cebu and Negros Occidental recently. The delegation representing 25 universities and colleges all over the country was headed by Ernie Angeles, president of the Philippine Institute of Student Affairs, who is from the Far Eastern University. The students denounced some youth organizations which have allowed themselves to be used as tool of some politicians.

April 15:

The Council of State at its meeting in the morning discussed at length the proposal to revise the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States, and the Japanese reparations questions. The Council decided to hold a special meeting shortly to consider the report of the 15-man committee on the proposal for the revision of the free trade between the Philippines and the United States, and the Japanese reparation question in the light of an expected reply of the Japanese' government to the aide-memoire that the Philippine government handed to the Japanese reparations mission in Manila, on the basic principles and working arrangements for the settlement of the reparations question between the two countries.

The President pressed his fight for re-election with a blistering attack against the leaders of the opposition and their choice of Magsaysay as their presidential standard bearer. In his 54th monthly radio chat at 7 p.m., at his Malacañan study, the President made a full dress attack against Nacionalista Party leaders for enriching themselves at the price of the administration for failing to pay huge amounts of their tax obligations, and for promoting dissidence and subversion by offering to help accused communists in the courts. Waxing sarcastic, the President reminded the listeners that the opposition have called the Liberal Party "corrupt" and yet they expect to march to power "through a new knight recruited from the 'hated, corrupt' Liberal Party." He accepted the challenge of the Nacionalistas on the issue of clean and honest government. (See-*Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1377-1382, for the full text of the radio chat.)

Just before the Council of State meeting in the morning, the President conferred with Senator Camilo Osias who came to Malacañan to attend the Council meeting. The President refused to say if Osias is already on the Liberal Party bandwagon, but he indicated that the Nacionalistas in La Union are rallying behind him in his political fight. Later the President received Gov. Juan Carbonell of La Union, who informed him that the people in the northern provinces are solidly behind him in his bid for reelection, irrespective of party affiliations. According to Carbonell, the NP's in the North, particularly those in La Union, were disgusted with the way Senator Osias was treated at the Nacionalista convention in the Manila Hotel. He said that his party men in La Union had decided to put up a solid support for the President.

April 16:

In a brief talk before government foresters who called on him at noon in Malacañan, the President directed foresters of the government to speed up the availability of public lands for settlement. He urged them to help in carrying out the government program of "land for the landless." The President enjoined the foresters to help encourage people in the crowded areas to settle on sparsely populated places, and to advise settlers who have cleared up and cultivated forest lands to secure titles to their lands. The foresters are in Manila for their annual national convention.

Addressing some 578 graduates of the ROTC advanced course during their commissioning exercises at the parade grounds in Camp Murphy late in the afternoon, the President said that the Philippines should be proud to participate in the great world struggle to maintain peace and uphold the principles of democracy. He told the young ROTC graduates who were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces that they have “the greatest opportunity in their lifetime to participate in this world struggle.” The President, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque and his aides, arrived at Camp Murphy parade grounds at 5 p.m.

Delegates to the Dental Golden Jubilee celebration in Manila were urged by the President to make available the facilities and assistance of their profession to the rural folks who normally were not blessed in the past with the things enjoyed by urban population. He said that great opportunities lie ahead for them in the agricultural areas, because the government is now encouraging the settlement of public lands. As a result of this policy, he pointed out, people from the crowded cities and communities are now trekking to rural areas where economic opportunities are abundant. The President made these remarks at the cocktails he gave in honor of the delegates to the Dental Golden Jubilee convention who called at Malacañan in the evening to pay their respects. The delegation was headed by Dr. Bienvenido V. Arana, president of the Philippine Dental Association.

The President received in the evening a delegation of Manila Music Lovers Society who informed him that he has been cited for a special honor by the Society for his outstanding contribution to the development of music in the Philippines. The President and 30 others, men and women, have been chosen by the Society for their work and contribution for the promotion of musical art and the welfare of musicians in the country in 1953. They are to be awarded medals and diplomas at a tea-musical to be held in Malacañan soon.

April 17:

The President called on city, district, and division engineers of the Bureau of Public Works all over the Philippines who called on him at Malacañan to help accelerate the government’s program of construction and economic development. He said: “I rely on you to exert all your efforts and energies towards the government’s objectives of agricultural and industrial development so that by the end of this year I could present a favorable balance sheet of the administration’s accomplishments.” He told the engineers that the government’s objective now is the construction of more highways in order to make accessible big and extensive areas of public lands to carry out the land for the landless program of the government, especially in Mindanao, Cagayan Valley, Mindoro, and Palawan. The city, district, and division engineers of the Bureau of Public Works are holding their annual convention in Manila.

In an extemporaneous speech delivered in the evening before some 800 veterans of the Philippines Veterans Legion now in convention in Manila, the President said he will follow up all legitimate claims of Philippine veterans against the United States government which had been neglected by past secretaries of national defense. The President said that, given the power and influence to do so, he would personally go “out of the confines of this country” to fight for the benefit of neglected veterans and their families. The President also promised to sign the pending bill being sponsored by Representatives Atilano Cinco and Cornelio Villareal which seeks to extend backpay benefits of government employees to USAFFE veterans and deserving guerrillas. The President was enthusiastically applauded by PVL officers and men who called at Malacañan to pay their respects.-

The President issued in the evening Administrative Order No. 209, implementing more effectively the constitutional and statutory provisions on optional, religious instruction in public schools. The order modifies section 55 of the revised Service Manual so as to provide the best facilities available for the proper implementation of the constitutional provision concerning religious instruction in the public schools. With this modification, students in any “public school, upon written petition of their parents, will be given religious instruction, one-half hour, three times a week, during, before, or after the school session, at such hours and in rooms in the public school building as may be fixed by the superintendent of schools, taking into consideration the peculiar conditions obtaining in different communities in his division.

April 18:

The President left on the presidential plane *Laong Laan* at 8:20 .a.m., to fulfill a speaking engagement at the Mindanao Colleges in Davao City. Among those who accompanied the President were Senator Tomas Cabili, Education Secretary Cecilio Putong, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, and ex-Representative Cesar Sotto. Another plane carrying newsmen and other members of the presidential party went with the *Laong Loan*.

A big crowd headed by Mayor Rodolfo Sarenas greeted the President at the Davao City airport when the *Laong Laan* landed at noon. The President reviewed a detachment of the armed forces and ROTG cadets at the airport. The motorcade from the airport to downtown Davao City passed, between lines of cheering citizens.

In an inspired extemporaneous speech before 30,000 cheering crowd at the PTA stadium to witness the commencement exercises of .the Mindanao Colleges in the evening, the President invited Senator Laurel and other critics of his total economic mobilization program to accompany him in his visit to Mindanao to witness the inauguration of the hydroelectric power project, the steel mills, and the fertilizer plant, and to see the construction of a network of loads in the vast region. "I would like to show them that at least I have not' been asleep during my six years of administration," said the President. The President's speech which lasted for 33 minutes was beamed direct to Manila by station DZBC. It was interrupted several times, by enthusiastic applause from the throng which jampacked the spacious athletic stadium.

April 19:

The President inspected in the morning the equipment and machinery worth \$4,500,000 in Davao for the construction of the network of highways in Mindanao. The equipment are from the MSA-PHILCUSA highway projects are now being constructed. About 75 per cent of the total equipment and machinery from the MSA have already arrived in Davao. There are four major highway projects in Mindanao; namely, (1) the Davao Agusan highway, (2) the Malabang-Mandiag highway in Lanao, (3) the Cotabato-Tupi highway, and the Zamboanga City-Pagadian highway. The first three are now under construction, while bids for the fourth will soon be opened. The four highways will be able to provide on both sides enough public lands for 610,000 settlers at six hectares each.

The President arrived at Del Monte, Bukidnon, at 11:45 a.m. aboard the *Laong Laan*, after a half hour trip from Davao City. The President was surprised to find a large crowd composed of delegations from Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and Zamboanga del Norte, waiting to give him a rousing welcome. Being somewhat tired from his inspection tour in Davao earlier in the morning before enplaning for Del Monte, the President asked the welcomers to return the next morning for a meeting.

April 20:

The President told high officials and political leaders of Mindanao gathered in Del Monte this day that he is running for re-election to save the country from falling into the hands of communist sympathizers and to prevent the possibility of eventual conquest by the communist. He said that if this regime fails to continue in power and another regime that is in sympathy with the communist sets in, this country will be overrun by the Reds. He mentioned such Nacionalista leaders as Senators Laurel and Recto as Red sympathizers. He pointed out that no member of the Liberal Party ever defended communists in court 'or secured their liberty in order to enable them to continue with their subversive activities.

The second reason why he is determined to run for re-election, said the President, is that he feels he has a personal commitment to continue with the execution of the economic development program of the country which his administration has started. He said that If he has to die in harness to carry his economic program through, he is ready to make the sacrifice. The third reason why he is seeking re-election, the President explained, is to be able to push through his plan for a Pacific Union for regional security on this side of the world.

About 400 officials and political leaders from four provinces and five chartered cities went to Del Monte to greet the President and discuss with him the problems of their respective provinces and cities. All delegations that converged, upon Del Monte to greet the President reiterated their pledge of loyalty and support for his re-election bid.

April 21:

The President arrived at the Nichols Airbase about 10:20 a.m. aboard the *Laong Loan* plane after about two and one-half hours trip from Del Monte, Bukidnon, where he stayed for two days as house guest of Neil Crawford, manager of the Philippine Packing Corporation. Upon arrival in Malacañan, he conferred with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque on pending state papers, and later with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde on the latest developments of the negotiations on Japanese reparations.

About 12:30 p.m., members of the new Senate majority began arriving at the Palace. They congratulated the President for “illuminating” speeches and pronouncements he made during his visit to Mindanao provinces. The Chief Executive had lunch with the members of the new Senate majority who called at Malacañan to greet him.

April 22:

The President spent the day aboard the yacht *Apo* anchored at the Philippine Navy basin in Manila Bay. About lunch time, he received Economic Coordination Administration Sergio Osmeña, Jr., who recommend the issuance of an executive order providing for a graduated scale of tax exemption for essential and necessary industries, depending upon the amount of importation of their needs which exceed the 50 per cent limit. Under existing laws necessary and essential industries which limit their importation to 50 per cent of their needs are exempt from paying taxes, but those which exceed the 50 per cent limit, even by only one per cent, are required to pay the full tax on their imports.

April 23:

“The President conferred for 30 minutes with Admiral Arthur W. Radford, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, aboard the yacht *Apo*. They discussed the situation in Indo-China and Formosa and the exchange of war prisoners in Korea. Details of talks which included defenses on this side of the world were not revealed. Present at the conference were Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, and Rear Admiral Richard Cruzen. Admiral Radford arrived at the yacht at 11:30 a.m. and left at 12 noon.

April 24:

The President received in the morning Paul V. McNutt, former U. S. Ambassador to the Philippines and now board chairman of the Philippine-American Life Insurance Company, who called aboard the yacht *Apo* to pay his respects. McNutt arrived in Manila two days ago to preside over the annual stockholders and directors meeting of the Insurance Company. Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, chairman and member respectively of the 15-man presidential bipartisan committee, also called on board the yacht *Apo* to submit the draft of the government concrete proposals on the projected revision of the PI-US trade agreement as prepared by the committee.

About 5:30 p.m., the President motored to Malacañan to receive some 500 members of the Philippine Medical Association who called to pay their respects on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

In the evening, the President designated and swore into office Lt. Col. Cesar V. Lucero as Acting Chief of Police of Manila. In brief remarks over station DZBC which broadcast the oath-taking ceremony, the President said his injunction to the new appointee was to enforce the law and carry out the policies of the state. The ceremony took place in the President’s study room, in the presence of former Manila Chief of Police Dionisio Ojeda, Deputy Chief of Police Celestino Juan, Vice-Mayor Bartolome Gatmaitan, former Manila Mayor Manuel de la Fuente, and Mrs. Brigida Vda. de Lucero, Lt. Col. Lucero’s mother.

April 25:

The President, supreme head of the Liberal Party, presided the meeting of the LP executive committee aboard the yacht *Apo* at noon. In this meeting it was decided to hold the convention of the Liberal Party on May 24 at the Jose

Rizal Memorial stadium for the purpose of selecting its presidential, vice-presidential, and senatorial standard bearers in the forthcoming November elections.

April 27:

In extemporaneous remarks delivered at the luncheon given in his honor by delegates to the current convention of transportation operators in Manila, the President underscored the important role played by local transportation companies in the implementation of the total economic mobilization program of the government. He assured transportation operators of the solid support and cooperation of the government in the development and expansion of the transportation industry in the Philippines. In the course of the after-luncheon ceremonies, the President was awarded a gold medal as first member of the Transportation Association of the Philippines, "for his full recognition of the transportation industry as the springboard to the speedy realization of our total economic mobilization."

In the evening, the President told newspapermen at an impromptu, interview that he was accelerating the investigation of the illegal disbursement of army funds. The President said: It was reported to me that some of those vouchers were signed by fictitious persons. That is why I would like to accelerate the investigation of these disbursements." When asked by the reporters what action he would take if anybody were found guilty, the President answered: "Whoever is guilty of the fictitious vouchers will be prosecuted."

April 28:

The President signed Proclamation No. 390, lifting the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Iloilo, Capiz, and Antique in Panay and in Cotabato and Davao in Mindanao. The lifting of the suspension of the writ in these five provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao was recommended by Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo on the strength of a report of Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff, that conditions of peace and order in these provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Cotabato, and Dayap have so improved as to warrant the restoration of the writ in those places. It is also in line with the policy of the administration to maintain clean, free, and orderly election and to erase any impression that the suspension of the writ may be taken advantage of by those in power. Malacañan said that the suspension of the writ may be lifted in some provinces in Luzon before the election if circumstances will warrant.

On receipt of news of the big fire that razed the town of Batangas to the tune of about ₱4,000,000, the President directed all the relief agencies of the government to make a survey and extend all-out aid to the fire victims. At the Cabinet meeting, he ordered Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez, to go to Batangas, Batangas, to take personal direction of the extension of aid to the Nacionalista dominated town.

The President also, directed Secretary, of Public Works Pablo Lorenzo and Vice-President Fernando Lopez in his capacity as Secretary of Agriculture to proceed immediately with the drainage of the Candaba swamps in Pampanga. The President showed impatience at the delay in converting the marshes of Candaba into agricultural lands for settlement by dissidents who want to return to the peaceful way of life. This project has been one of the President's obsessions for which he had secured MSA aid for survey of the swamps.

On the recommendation of Secretary of Commerce Cornelio Balmaceda the Cabinet decided to extend the International Fair up to June this year. Secretary Balmaceda said that all business firms with booths and exhibits in the fair are unanimous for its extension because of the continuous interest of the people. Petitions for extension of the fair, come from people in the provinces and from civic organizations. The fair was originally scheduled to close on April 30.

The President at the Cabinet meeting designated Undersecretary Regino Padua to act as Secretary of Health during the absence of Dr. Juan Salcedo, Jr., who is leaving for Geneva the next day to preside the annual conference of the World Health Organization. He also designated Dr. Julian Pilaris as Acting Director of Hospitals during the absence of Dr. Tranquilino Elicano who is leaving with Secretary Salcedo as a member of the Philippine delegation to the World Health Organization conference in Geneva. Dr. Salcedo is the chairman of the WHO.

The President received in the evening the delegates to the First World Parent-Teacher Association conference and the 21st anniversary celebration of the National Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of the Philippines, who called at Malacañan to pay their respects. Addressing the delegates, the President said teachers and parents should spread throughout the country the need of "rural education and rural development." He pointed out that the administration has concentrated its attention on the great effort of promoting the interest of the common man. The Chief Executive praised the work of the Parent-Teacher Federation, and explained that the association's activities complement the government's program of social amelioration to lift the standard of living of the common people. There is need of supplementing these government duties by private initiative because the government does not have enough money to take care of the education of the young, the President said. Several educators were awarded medals and diplomas, by the President in recognition of their work in education.

April 29:

To bolster closer diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Indonesia, the Cabinet authorized the establishment by the government of the Republic of Indonesia of a vice consulate at Davao City to cover Mindanao and Sulu. By way of reciprocity, the Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Philippine vice consulate at a strategic place in Indonesia, may be in Celebes, as soon as the necessary funds for the purpose has been provided for by Congress.

The Cabinet, moreover, decided not to allow the exportation of "C" sugar abroad following latest reports from the Sugar Quota Administration that there will be a shortage of 85,832 short tons in the crop year 1952-53. The Cabinet action was based on the recommendation of the special committee created by the President to study the proposal to export "C" sugar abroad.

The President early in the evening was awarded a medal and certificate by the Manila Music Lovers Society for his outstanding service to the cause of music and musicians in the Philippines. The merit medal was awarded for the interest shown by the President in the encouragement of music advancement in the country, among which was his approval of the bill abolishing the tax on musical presentations and his approval of the plan to build a national theater.

The President welcomed some 48 industrial and businessmen from Detroit, Michigan, and invited them to invest in the Philippines and share "with our bright future." The American businessmen arrived at the Manila International Airport in the evening, and proceeded directly to the President. "They are on their fourth world tour and have come to Manila to visit the Philippines International Fair. Marvyn Gaskin, chairman, and spokesman of the group, expressed his appreciation for the courtesies offered his delegation at the airport. The President expressed the hope that the presence of the American businessmen in the Philippines will enable them to make a survey of investment possibilities in this country and strengthen the trade relations of this country with the United States. "I am quite sure that the Philippines is ready, willing, and able to receive you and your investment," he said.

April 30:

At the close of the convention of judges of courts of first instance and provincial and city fiscals in Manila, they called on the President at Malacañan to hear his message and to present to him a resolution saying that they are unanimously and solidly behind Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo in whom they have full confidence because they have known him too long and well as an upright and just man. The President directed them to accelerate the administration program of cleansing the government of graft and corruption. He enjoined them to clear the court dockets and pay special attention to the cases of the common man, especially those in the rural areas. He also urged that all possible legal assistance be extended to the poor who are brought to court and who are unable to employ the services of lawyers.

The President appointed Benjamin M. Gozon as Director of Mines to succeed Director Bemetrio Andres who was stricken ill while attending a conference in Madrid last year. Mr. Andres is physically incapacitated. The new Director of Mines was formerly chief of the law division of the Bureau of Mines.

In the presence of several Moro officials, the President signed Executive Order No. 588, organizing the municipality of Karomatan in Lanao.

The President entertained in the evening at a dinner-dance Admiral Arthur W. Radford and former U. S. Ambassador to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt.

Asked to comment on the reorganization of the Senate, the President made the following remarks: "That is the exclusive prerogative of the Senate. Senator Zulueta was simply promoted to the presidency of that body and the committees were reorganized to constitute a homogeneous instrumentality for effective legislative labor. What is important is that there be a stable majority with which to work and cooperated during the remaining days of the present, legislative session.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

President's Month in Review: May, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

May 1:

The President signed H. B. No. 3175, standardizing the rates of compensation and automatic salary increases for public school officials, teachers, and other school personnel. The law, known as the Public School Salary Act of 1953, is a sequel and an amendment to Republic Act No. 312 known as the Public School Salary Act of 1948. Compared with the previous law, the present law embraces in its scope the same component elements of public school personnel, but provides higher minimum and maximum rates of salaries for each group of officers and employees. Whereas in the old law, the salary range of an elementary classroom teacher was from ₱1,200 to ₱1,800, the present scale follows: a four-year normal and BSE teacher, ₱1,920 to ₱3,120; a two-year normal teacher, ₱1,680 to ₱2,760; a secondary normal teacher, ₱1,560; and an undergraduate teacher, ₱1,440. A secondary classroom teacher will now get an entrance salary of ₱1,920 as against ₱1,800 in the old rate, but the maximum salary of ₱3,120 remains the same. (See pp. 1755, for full text of the new Public School Salary Act.)

The President and the Swedish Minister to the Philippines pledged the strengthening of the friendly and cordial relations between the Philippines and Sweden in a brief exchange of remarks during the ceremonies when Malte Johan Djalmer Pripp presented his credentials as Swedish Minister to the Philippines, to the President at the Malacañan ceremonial hall in the morning. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1783, for full texts of the brief remarks.)

The President topped off his observance of Labor Day by reviewing in the afternoon the mammoth Labor Day parade at the Quirino grandstand on the Luneta. The parade, participated in by some 500,000 people composed of members of several labor unions, factory workers, and government employees, lasted for one and one-half hours. A huge bust-placard of the President with the inscription: "President Quirino, champion of Economic Progress," and a gigantic cut-out painting of the President borne by some paraders, drew applause from the reviewing stand and from the onlookers.

May 2:

The President received in the morning Minister Giuseppe Telesio di Toritto of Italy who called at Malacañan to say goodbye preparatory to his return to his home after completion of his three-year tour of duty in the Philippines. Minister di Toritto will be replaced here by Minister Fernando Wiel who arrived in Manila recently. The President also received Thailand's Minister Luang Bhadravadi who also bade the President goodbye. Minister Bhadravadi is leaving for his new assignment in India.

The Council of State at its special session convoked by the President about 11:30 a.m., approved the recommendation of the 15-man committee headed by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola to adjust the present trade relations between the United States and the Philippines in order to make it more equitable and mutually profitable for both countries. The Foreign Affairs Secretary was directed to transmit the proposals to the United States Government through the American Embassy. The letter of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to President Quirino which says that the "government of the United States now stand ready to give prompt and systematic consideration to any specific proposals for the revision of the present trade agreement which the Philippine government may wish to advance," was read before the Council of State. (See p. 1784, for full text of the letter.)

The President designated Isaac Sayoc as acting Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Collector of Customs for the Port of Manila. Sayoc has long been in the customs service, and until his present designation, has been Deputy Collector of Customs for the Port of Manila.

May 3:

The charge of Ramon Magsaysay in Davao City as reported in the Sunday papers that the distribution of land in Mindanao; was “slow and unequal,” was another of those manifestations of Magsaysay’s ignorance of what the Government has already been doing in the development of that rich island, Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal said in the evening. This goes to show, Arizabal said, that the former Cabinet member who was supposed to be privy to the actuations of that body was ignorant of the deliberations of the very body of which he was a member. Regarding the charge of “slow” land distribution, Arizabal said that, that is one of the unavoidable, defects which is concomitant with democracy. Lands cannot just be grabbed like they do in dictator countries and distributed right and left, he pointed out.

May 4:

The President expressed great pleasure when shown in the evening Senator Paredes’ statement reiterating that President Quirino was his candidate for President. Paredes explained that “only if and when, President. Quirino should refuse his nomination that I will consent to have my name submitted to the convention.”

When asked by newspapermen to comment on Senator Jose P. Laurel’s statement on the Senate floor in the morning that the threatened arrest of certain senators was a plot to wrest control of the Senate, the President said he did not know anything about the matter. That is a matter of conscience if Senator Laurel believes it, the President said. He laughed away comments that he might not accept the presidential nomination because of poor health, saying that he was strong enough to act as pall bearer of those who think that he is a sick man.

In an extemporaneous remarks made to the social workers who came to Malacañan in the evening to pay their respects after the holding of their five-day convention in Manila, the President said that the social workers form the first line of offense and defense of the government in giving relief to sufferers and in defending the government against those who misrepresent it. In times of calamities and distress, he explained, it is the government’s social workers who rush to the remotest regions to give help; hence, the social workers are in the first line of offense, in tackling the relief work. On the other hand, the President pointed out, the social amelioration agents should be the interpreters to the people of the policies and actuations of the government and thus inspire the people with greater confidence in their government.

May 5:

The President during the Cabinet meeting received a preliminary report from Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo of the progress of his investigation into the reported misappropriation of army funds. Castelo said that he had found strong evidences to support the following: (1) fictitious payments and (2) existence of persons who received payments under fictitious names. Castelo said that the investigators have uncovered misappropriations of army funds during the incumbency of Ramon Magsaysay as Secretary of National Defense. He said the investigators are continuing with the examinations of vouchers for payment of rewards to fictitious persons, salaries to persons under fictitious names, and purchase of firearms from either fictitious individuals or persons under fictitious names.

Before the Cabinet meeting, the President conferred with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde and Finance Secretary Aurelio Moritinola, chairman of the 15-man committee which had studied and drafted the proposals for the adjustment of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. They went over the draft of the letter to be forwarded in the afternoon to U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance containing the proposals for the trade agreement revision. The letter also informed the U. S. Government through the American Ambassador that the Philippines is now ready to appoint its representatives’ to meet with the representatives of the U. S. Government to work out the adjustments in the present trade relations between the two countries.

The President signed during the Cabinet meeting Republic Act No, 843 increasing the salaries of municipal judges and justices of the peace. The new law provides three changes in the judiciary act; namely, (1) increasing the salaries of justices of the peace; (2) increasing the salaries of municipal judges and justices of the peace in provincial capitals; and (3) granting vacation and sick leave with pay to municipal judges and justices of the peace. (*Sec pp. 1757-1759, .for full text of the new law.*)

The President at noon administered the oath of office to Rafael G. Carating as Assistant Director of the Bureau of Prisons, vice Pablo J. Norona, retired.

May 6:

The President welcomed at noon his daughter Vicky and his son-in-law, Chito, at a luncheon aboard the yacht *Apo*. Chito and Vicky returned from Tokyo early in the morning on a PAL plane.

Earlier the President had a breakfast conference with Col. Andres Soriano, president of the Philippines Air Lines over matters affecting the extension of the PAL route to Mexico City. The inaugural flight of a PAL plane to Mexico City was set for May 23. Later the President conferred with Jose Yulo, chairman of the PHTLCUSA, in connection with the drainage of the Candaba swamps in Pampanga.

Malacañan announced that the President had made available ₱1,000,000 for the redemption of emergency currency and guerrilla notes issued during the war with Japan. The amount has been made available upon the recommendation of the Fund Release Control Committee.

In an impromptu interview in the evening, the President told Malacañan newsmen that he does not have any idea about the impending arrest of some Nacionalista Senators for alleged communist tie-up. He said that he has nothing to do at all with the alleged move, adding that the case of Senator Laurel is a matter of conscience for the Senator. The President laughed when he was informed of the grossly exaggerated PNS report, on the crowds that had greeted Magsaysay in Davao City and in Panay. The report on the crowd in Davao City was subsequently denied by Mayor Rodolfo Sarenas in a telegram to Malacañan. Corroborating the Mayor's report, Major Nagtalon, chief of police of Davao City, reported in another telegram that not more than 300 were at the airport and about 5,000 were at the rally.

In a brief extemporaneous remarks delivered before a group of young professionals and students from the Visayas and Mindanao who called on him at Malacañan, the President stressed the importance of selecting the men most "fitted in this critical period of this nation's history. He urged the people not to be easily carried away by the "childish campaign" or by hysterics being undertaken by some politicians. He appealed for prudence in the selection of the right men to the right positions, lest "our efforts at industrial development for the last seven years be set to naught." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1784—1786, for full text of the remarks.)

Earlier in the afternoon, the President received another large delegation of teachers from Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Basilan City, and Misamis Oriental. Their spokesmen, Superintendent Luis Azcarraga and Mrs. Berta Mendoza, expressed the group's gratitude for the President's approval of the bill standardizing salaries of public school teachers. They also thanked the President for the concern he has shown in the economic development of Mindanao. The President, in his brief remarks said that he should not be given all the credit for the salary standardization law. He pointed out that although the bill could not have become a law without his signature, due credit should be given to "my associates in Congress who initiated the measure." (See pp. 1786-1789, for full text of the extemporaneous remarks.)

May 7:

The President signed three executive orders reducing the 1952 taxes on all real property in three typhoon-stricken provinces still unable to recover from the damages suffered from typhoon disaster. The places where the 1952 taxes on real property are reduced are Albay and certain municipalities in Samar and Leyte. The 1952 taxes are reduced on condition that all unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before May 31, 1953.

The President received in the morning over ₱1 million worth of real estates formerly belonging to enemy aliens and turned over to, the Philippine government by the Office of Alien Property, U. S. Department of Justice, under the Philippine Property Act of 1946. The properties, most of which are located in Davao, consist of 61 parcels of agricultural land totalling an area of approximately 163 hectares, four parcels of commercial land with a total area of

about 100,000 square meters, 30 parcels: of residential land totalling approximately 38,000 square meters, three installment sales contracts secured by real estate, 17 buildings, and a number of items of personal property. They were formally turned over by Stanley Gilbert, manager of the local OAP, on behalf of the U. S. Government in turnover ceremonies which lasted about an hour held in Malacañan's council of state room.

Earlier in the morning, the President received Chinese Ambassador Chen Chi-ping who called in behalf of Chinese nationals detained in Camp Murphy for subversive activities. Ambassador Chen reiterated his offer of cooperation to the Philippine government in ferreting out local Chinese communists.

May 8:

Before leaving for Baguio in the morning, the President signed Republic Act No. 845, converting the Nueva Ecija Trade School in Cabanatuan City into a regional school of arts and trades to be called as the Central Luzon School of Arts and Trades. He also signed Republic Act No. 846, converting the Zamboanga City Trade School into another regional school of arts and trades to be known as Zamboanga City Regional School of Arts and Trades. Vetoed by the President was House Bill No. 2742, seeking to grant Restitute Pangan a temporary permit to construct, maintain, and operate radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines, because the bill does not require the grantee to file a bond in order to secure the fulfillment of the obligations imposed, upon him.

The President authorized the release of ₱1 million for the continued redemption of duly registered and deposited illegally issued Philippine National Bank circulating notes. The amount was recommended by the Funds Release Committee headed by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola.

The President landed at Loakan airfield about 11:30 a.m. aboard the plane *Laong Loan* for a weekend vacation in Baguio. In an informal chat at noon with newsmen who flew with him from Manila, the President intimated that he favored inclusion of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and Sen. Camilo Osias in the LP senatorial ticket in the coming November elections. "Both Romulo and Osias are sure winners should they, run under any political party," the President said.

May 9:

Speaking at noon on the closing day of the 44th annual convention of school superintendents at Teachers Camp in Baguio, the President said he derived great inspiration and encouragement from expressions of gratitude from teachers he had taken pains to assist. He confessed that he was deeply touched by their demonstration, particularly because it came at this time when gratitude seems to have become a rare commodity. The President said that one of his greatest pride and honor Was the fact that he had been able to do his bit in preparing men not only as a public school teacher and later as a professor of law, but also as an official in the government. To the course of 47 years in public life, he said, he had helped men rise to prestige and power to whom he taught: "So conduct yourselves in public as well as in private so that you can look straight into any man's eyes and tell him to 'go to hell'." The President expressed regret that some men whom he had helped reach the pinnacle of glory did not have the sense of gratitude or simple decency. He said: "Perhaps you who have always taught and inculcated in the minds of our youth the spirit of simple decency and honor ought to realize this more than anyone else."

Realizing that the President was obviously referring to former Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, the big crowd stood up as one man and lustily cheered the Chief Executive. Resolutions of thanks and gratitude were presented to the President by the Philippine Public School Teachers Association on behalf of some 90,000 teachers throughout the country, by superintendents of schools on a convention, and by the student council of 1953 organized by the teachers attending the summer school in Baguio.

May 10:

Interviewed by newsmen at Poro Point shortly after luncheon, the President revealed that Ambassador Romulo is ready to accept any position the Liberal Party would offer him.. He said that Romulo is willing to run under the Liberal Party ticket for any office in the government, from councilor to the Presidency. "I like his spirit," added the

President; These statements were made following a breakfast conference the President had with the Ambassador. The Chief Executive declined to comment on the reported resignation of Secretary Castelo from the Justice Department portfolio. He said he is studying the matter carefully and would like to be free to act when the time comes. The President conferred at noon with Secretary Castelo, Justice Undersecretary Roberto Gianzon, and Solicitor General Juan R. Liwag. Also present at the conference was Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola.

May 11:

The President accompanied by newsmen covering him and a few aides, pulled out of Poro Point at 10 a.m. aboard the yacht *Apo*. The President cruised overnight along the Lingayen Gulf, and studied various pending matters including the Castelo case.

In the afternoon, the President wired Secretary Castelo from the yacht *Apo*, directing him to postpone criminal proceedings already filed in court against any Congress member. He further told Castelo to desist from initiating other criminal cases against senators and representatives during the period of the congressional session. The Chief Executive made this directive "in order not to mar or hamper the legislative functions of the government during the remaining portion of the present congressional session." Castelo was also directed to refrain from the time being from making any statements or taking any action that might provoke friction between the Legislative and the Executive Departments.

May 12:

The President authorized the release of ₱300,000 for the construction of 17 kilometers of road along the Candaba swamps from Pulilan to Candaba town. This will facilitate drainage work and development of the area which is to be converted into rich agricultural lands in line with the administration's policy of increased production. In a conference with Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo in the morning, the President also approved in principle the release of another ₱300,000 with which to start the drainage project. Lorenzo was directed to see PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo immediately about the release of this amount which will come from PHILCUSA-MSA funds.

The President also approved in the morning the site of the national pantheon on East Avenue, Quezon City, as recommended by the committee. The national pantheon will be the burying ground of Presidents, of the Republic.

Speaking at the popular banquet given in his honor at the Miramonte resort in San Fernando, La Union, at noon, in connection with Hospital Day celebration, the President expressed gratification over demonstration of cooperation of Senator Camilo Osias and the people of La Union. He expressed confidence that this cooperation would continue to round off the program of construction by which the people would remember his administration. Senator Osias for the first time came out openly in support of President Quirino in the coming elections when he announced he would soon be fighting side by side with the President against the common enemy. He said that come November, the people of La Union will know how to show their gratitude not only in words but also in deeds for the many benefits La Union has received from the Quirino Administration, among which are irrigation systems, hospitals, and the cement plant under construction in Bacnotan.

May 14:

Malacañan charged Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson with distorting facts regarding the alleged delay in the approval of the appointments of 2,500 policemen. According to Malacañan, out of 2,500 Manila police appointments at ₱2,400 a year, the Executive Office had received only 89 at the time Mayor Lacson made his unfounded charges of delay. These appointments although prepared on November 15, 1952, by the Office of the Mayor, were not forwarded to the Bureau of Civil Service until May 5, 1953, or until after a period of more than five months, and they were received by the Executive Office only on May 12, the statement further pointed out. Answering the charge that the Executive Office is requiring unnecessary requirements, Malacañan said that the requirements are necessary and that Lacson "must comply with the requirements of the law and regulations, and, if he believes that the laws, and regulations are not necessary, he should challenge their validity."

The President wired his “hearty congratulations” to Admiral Arthur W. Radford on his appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff saying that “the Filipinos in whom you have shown deep interest hail your promotion as a timely recognition of your splendid record of achievements.”

At noon, the President certified to Congress the urgency of H. B. No. 3927, appropriating ₱3 million for the installation of government automatic telephone system. Passage of the proposed measure is deemed urgent by Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo who recommended the enactment of the bill.

In the evening, the President accepted without much ado the resignation of Carlos P. Romulo as Ambassador to the United States and as Permanent-Delegate to the United Nations. The President said curtly, “Your resignation is accepted immediately.”

The President said in his brief extemporaneous remarks: at the inauguration of the ₱1,200,000 Cebu Portland Cement Company building on Numancia Street in the evening that the CEPOC building is another tangible proof of the strides that the country is making in the total economic mobilization program of the government. He said that the Philippines has materially advanced and has gained international respect because of the progress that it has made in various phases of activities. He pointed out that as a result of the constructive work of the government, there is now a new atmosphere of happiness and contentment among the people.

May 15:

The President at noon certified to Congress the urgency of House Bill No. 3895, appropriating ₱1,600,000 for the construction and maintenance of the Bago-Bantay housing project in Quezon City, in line with the program of social amelioration of the administration and the slums clearance of Manila. Some 1,000 families are already settled in this government project in Quezon City.

The President also certified the urgency of House Bill No. 3335, proposing the maintenance of the present 17 per cent rate of tax on foreign exchange until June 30, 1954. Under the existing law, Republic Act No. 814, the rate of foreign tax will be reduced from 17 per cent to 12 per cent from July 1 to December 31, 1953, when the said tax will expire.

Earlier in the morning, the President had a long conference with Vice-President Fernando Lopez; Speaker- Eugenio Perez, PHILCUSA Chairman Jose Yulo, and former Senate President Jose Avelino. The conference held behind closed doors took up plans for the forthcoming Liberal Party convention on May 24, particularly the procedure to be followed.

Shortly before noon, the President held a brief meeting of his Cabinet at the council of state room. In his 55th monthly radio chat delivered at his Malacañan study, the President assailed Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo for saying that the discontent of the times demanded a change in leadership. He remarked sarcastically that Romulo who had been telling the American people as Ambassador to Washington that the Quirino administration was a success, was now the one who “in one day of sudden political decision,” was crying discontent as an excuse “for seeking a change in leadership.” He called the current mention of discontent as a “common election pastime.” He reiterated that he would get the Liberal Party nomination “to seek a fresh mandate from you to finish a job I have started.” He assured the nation that the election would be conducted on the highest level. (*See Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1792-1795, for full text of the radio chat.)

May 16:

The President authorized continued importation of all articles presently importable from Japan under the terms of the barter trade agreement. The Import Control Commission was therefore directed to permit present importers from Japan to utilize their licenses which had been held in abeyance pending revision of the list of articles covered in the present barter trade agreement with the former enemy country,

Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Governor Gedeon Quijano of Misamis Occidental, and Governor Bernardo Torres of Leyte headed the officials from various sectors of the country pledging solid support to President Quirino's bid for re-election. Some 30 Congressmen went to Malacañan in the morning to reiterate their pledge of loyalty to President Quirino' and to denounce misrepresentations allegedly made to them by Representative Jose Roy of Tarlac, foremost supporter of former Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, that the President is not running for re-election. The solons reassured the President that delegates from their respective provinces to the forthcoming Liberal Party convention would vote 100 per cent for him against Romulo. According to Ex-Senator Salipada Pendatun who had just come from a 10-day survey of Mindanao and Sulu, the Liberals in the provinces of Cotabato, Davao, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Sulu, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and in the home province of Senator Cabili, Lanao, have solidly committed themselves to support the re-election bid of the President.

May 17:

The President conferred with Speaker Eugenio Perez and Senator Quintin Paredes at Malacañan in the morning, preparatory to the resumption of the meeting of the Liberal Party executive committee at Malacañan in the evening.

After hearing mass, the President went to his private study to be televised by the Columbia Broadcasting System and for the Mutual Broadcasting System, two radio networks in the United States.

In the evening, the President went to the Far Eastern University to attend the inauguration of FEU President Teodoro Evangensta. He attended the ceremonies in cap and gown.

May 18:

The President received very few callers in the morning in his desire to clear his desk of pending state papers. He spent most of the time with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who brought to his breakfast table a pile of important state documents for presidential action. Shortly before noon, the President had a long conference with Speaker Eugenio Perez, LP president, to prepare the ground of the meeting of the executive committee of the Liberal Party in the evening. Delegates to the Liberal Party arriving in Manila reported to the President that they are supporting his bid for re-election. Iloilo Governor Mariano Peñaflorida, Cebu Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., Cotabato Governor Sinsuat, and Laguna Representative Estanislao Fernandez called to inform the President that their delegates have committed themselves to support him in his re-election bid.

May 19:

A stream of provincial delegates headed by their chairman continued to flew to Malacañan to pledge their solid support to the President in his bid for nomination in the Liberal Party convention on May 24. Most significant was the call at the Palace of Governor Duma Sinsuat of Cotabato, who said that all Cotabato delegates except Senator Tomas Cabili would vote for President Quirino. Representative Ali Dimaporo corroborated Sinsuat's statement. Messages pouring into Malacañan from all parts of the country pledged loyalty and solid support to the President and predicted a big landslide for him in the coming national convention of the Liberal Party.

The President designated ICC Chairman Primitive Lovina as chairman of the finance committee of the Fourth of July celebration this year. Besides raising funds to finance the celebration, the committee will also take care of the completion of the two wings of the Quirino' grandstand now under construction.

May 20:

The President certified to the urgency of enactment of House Bill No. 3761 which seeks to amend sections 243 and 244 of Commonwealth Act No. 466 known as the internal revenue code in order to reduce the present *ad valorem* taxes and royalties on the value of the output of gold mines from the present 1 1/2 per cent to 10 per cent, to a flat rate of 1 1/2 per cent. The proposed measure seeks relief for the local gold mining companies which had reported difficulties because of mounting cost of operations due to the implementation of the minimum wage law.

The President also certified to; the urgency of enactment of several other bills among which was the granting of gratuity to the widow and the legitimate children of the late Judge Claudio Sandoval and appropriating funds therefor.

At a one-hour meeting of the LP League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors held at Malacañan social hall at noon, the league unanimously agreed to endorse the nomination of the President at the coming LP convention. The league also agreed to stand for a *viva voce* voting in the nomination of the presidential standard bearer at the convention.

May 21:

The President received a resolution of appreciation from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities for “his avowal of the significant role of the private schools as free and active instrumentalities for the development of an enlightened nation.” Passed by the PACU in its recent meeting, the resolution expressed a deep appreciation to President Quirino “for the official recognition, spontaneously and publicly given by him, of the valuable services rendered by the private schools, colleges, and universities of the Philippines ...”

Malacañan announced that the President is maintaining strict neutrality in the selection of his team-mate in the coming presidential election. Any report to the contrary is merely based on speculation, the announcement said. Senator Tomas Cabili is so desperate as to utter in his radio broadcast the previous night threats of bloodshed in the coming elections should President Quirino be the Liberal Party standard bearer, according to another statement given out by Malacañan. Senator Cabili, the statement further said, apparently is trying to foment fear among the Liberal Party delegates who are for the President in a desperate and vain effort to swing unavailable delegate votes to support General Carlos P. Romulo.

Before Congress adjourned at midnight, the President had certified to the legislative body a total of 43 important bills for enactment.

May 23:

The President appealed to the delegates to the Liberal Party convention to “face the task of selecting our standard bearers in the most friendly and congenial way.” He said: “In this convention we vie with our men, but let us not forget that it is the opposition we are fighting. We therefore need calmness in our deliberations and a great sense of responsibility in our decisions. I have faith in the mature judgment of our delegations. So, let us all relax and face our task of selecting our standard bearers in the most friendly and congenial way.”

Four hours, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the President received delegations from different provinces and chartered cities who pledged their solid backing to support his nomination for re-election in the Liberal Party convention and the plan to insist on *viva voce* voting for the presidential candidate of the party. In a press interview after the four-hour reception of delegates, the President said, that he was leaving the voting issue entirely in the hands of the convention to decide. “I don’t care how the delegates will vote so long as they vote freely,” he declared.

May 24:

The President accepted the presidential nomination from the Liberal Party and pledged that, with the people’s support, he would help: make the country “strong and secure for our children.” In a two-page acceptance speech, he explained why he had decided to run for re-election, saying, “I have a purpose.” According to him, there are concrete objectives calculated to insure the well-being, of the people over which he has assumed personal obligation to carry out. He stressed the fact that “a set resolve, pride, and enthusiasm possess me in the continuance of the work of realizing our program of action.” He called attention to the fact that “passion for the amelioration of the common man’s lot is still my unchallenged record.” Although the responsibility is strenuous, he said “I find no greater satisfaction than to dedicate the best of my efforts to continue with you the work we have well begun.” The President’s acceptance speech was read by Representative Cornelio T. Villareal of Capiz, as the Chief Executive was

absent throughout the convention proceedings because of poor health. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 1796, for the text of the acceptance speech.)

May 25:

The President received in the evening vice presidential candidate Jose Yulo who called to congratulate him on his unanimous nomination as standard bearer of the Liberal Party and to receive instructions from him. Yulo said, "I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, and I am here to receive, instructions from you." The President, who was in high spirit, responded: "Thank you, Joe, I reciprocate your congratulations. With you on my side, I am sure we will lead the party to victory."

After their exchange of amenities, the President and Mr. Yulo held a closed-door conference in the President's bedroom. They had a general discussion on possible courses of action that may-be taken by the Liberal Party in the conduct of the electoral campaign.

Senate Bill No. 388, transferring the medical and dental services in the public schools to the Department of Education became Republic Act No. 847 on May 24, without the President's signature, Malacañan announced. The bill became a law after the lapse of 20 days since its receipt from Congress, even without the President's signature.

May 26:

The President accepted the resignation of Vice-President Fernando Lopez as Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources so that the Vice President "may feel free to follow your future plans." The President designated RFC Chairman Placido L. Mapa to take over the agriculture portfolio temporarily. In accepting the resignation of the Vice President from his agriculture port-folio, the President thanked him for the cooperation which "you have given me in the Cabinet, in which your association has always been most pleasant."

May 27:

The President authorized the release of ₱180,000 for the improvement of the Davao-North Road including the road to Sasa wharf in Davao City, in line with the Administration's program of development in Mindanao. He also approved the release of ₱75,000 for the maintenance and improvement of roads usually subject to heavy traffic in different parts of Luzon. The amount released for widening the asphalt pavement along the Manila-North Road within Angeles, Pampanga, and the Maunanan-Rizal section of the Cagayan-Apayao inter-provincial road between Cagayan and Mountain Province.

The President met his newly reorganized Cabinet at noon at the Palace porch and directed the members to rush the study of bills passed by the Second Congress during its last regular session.

Before the Cabinet meeting started, the President inducted into office RFC Chairman Placido L. Mapa, as the new Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, replacing Vice-President Fernando Lopez, who resigned as Secretary of Agriculture. Undersecretary of Justice Roberto Gianzon, who was assigned officer in charge of the Department of Justice pending the designation or appointment of an *ad interim* Justice Secretary, also attended the Cabinet meeting to represent his department. Malacañan clarified that the Cabinet shuffle had nothing to do with Senator Recto's charges against Secretary Oscar Castelo. Malacañan said that the President wanted Castelo to devote his entire attention to the Department of National Defense; so he must have to give up the justice portfolio.

In a determined effort to have a speedy and effective implementation of the US-PI joint aid program throughout the country, the President during the Cabinet meeting directed Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa to take over immediately the duties of Chairman of the Philippine Council for U.S. Aid (PHILCUSA), the position left vacant by LP Vice Presidential candidate Jose Yulo. The President thinks that with "the designation of Secretary Mapa as Acting Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Acting Chairman of the PHILCUSA, the MSA-PHILCUSA joint development program will be continued smoothly.

After consultation with the Cabinet, the President also signed House Bill No. 1616, establishing a national trade school in Negros Occidental and approved the award of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Officer) to Congressman Edith Nourse Rogers, chairman of the committee on veterans affairs, U. S. Congress.

On the occasion of a tea party given by the President in honor of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez was awarded the Green Thanks Badge of the GSP during the impressive ceremony held at the Malacañan social hall in the evening. At the same time Mrs. Gonzalez, who is honorary president of the GSP, inducted into office the members and officers of the Center Committee of the GSP.

May 28:

The President issued Executive Order No. 596, organizing four municipalities; namely, Hagonoy, Malalag, Dona Alicia, and Babak, all in Davao province. He also signed Executive Order No. 597, transferring the seat of government of Camalaniugan, Cagayan, from the barrios of Dugo and Bulala to the barrio of Dacallafugu.

May 29:

The President in the morning vetoed House Bill No. 2881, providing for the establishment of a school of fisheries in Ambulog, Tanauan, Batangas. In his veto message to Congress, the President explained that he had no objection to the establishment of a fishery school in the province of Batangas provided it is located in a fishing town like Bauan, Taal, Lemery, Balayan, or Batangas, Batangas. Such school, if it is to serve its purpose, should be near Batangas Bay or Balayan Bay, the veto message points out. The President signed six bills late in the evening, among which was House Bill-No. 2087, providing for the extension of the active duty or enlistment of reserve officers and enlisted men of Philippine expeditionary forces serving abroad. This bill amends Republic Act No. 573, otherwise known as the Philippine Military Act, so as to make reserve officers and men serving overseas remain on active duty as long as the Philippines continues to maintain its units abroad, unless sooner relieved from such active duty, or dismissed from the service pursuant to the approved sentence of a general court martial. ((See pp. 1755-1765, for the full texts of the Bills signed by the President this month.)

May 30:

The President, upon being informed of the rumors that he is very ill, humorously commented: "I am well enough to box or knock down an opponent. Only, I can't kick." Press Secretary Antonio L. Arizabal branded the rumors as "malicious lies." He said the President is suffering from a recurrence of his old foot ailment—bursitis. To speed up the healing, his doctors had ordered that he take a rest, Arizabal added.

The President directed the National Economic Council to review the progress made under the revised 1950 development program of the administration for the purpose of making recommendations on measures which will induce private investors to embark on enterprises that will contribute to the national welfare. In his letter to Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, concurrently chairman of the NEC, the President said that equal emphasis should be placed on industrialization as well as the expansion of Philippine agriculture. He wants to speed up industrial development of the country in order to have, it absorb the increasing number of new labor forces arising from the rapid growth of our population. He said that the expansion of agriculture alone will not solve unemployment and that industrial development could give more opportunities for work. In order to enable the NEC to bring up-to-date the Philippine agricultural and development program, the President approved the recommendation of the PHILGUSA and the MSA for revitalization and expansion of the Council by providing funds for the needed personnel.

Malacañan explained that the executive order creating the four municipalities of Malalag, Alicia, Babac, and Hagonoy in Davao province was based on an express authority granted to the Chief Executive to define boundaries of municipalities and create new ones, by section 68 of the Revised Administrative Code; hence, Senator Recto's opinion on the power of the President to create new municipalities is based on the wrong premise that the President in so acting has made use of his so called emergency powers. The former governors-general of the Philippines,

Presidents Quezon, Omeña, and Roxas created municipalities by executive orders, pursuant to the power granted by section 68 of the Administrative Code, Malacañan pointed out.

May 31:

In compliance with his physician's order for complete rest, the President spent a quiet Sunday. Aside from hearing mass, he spent a few minutes going over some bills received from Congress.

He directed Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to distribute copies of the bills among members of the Cabinet concerned for their study and recommendations.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: June, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

June 1:

Malacañan announced Senate concurrence on the following six important international agreements made by the Chief Executive with different states:

1. Senate Resolution No. 126—Ratification by the President of the protocol signed in London on August 31, 1949, providing for the continuation in force for one year of the international agreement regarding the regulation of the production and marketing of sugar, signed in London on May 6, 1937;
2. Senate Resolution No. 127—Acceptance of the protocol bringing under international control drugs outside the scope of the convention of July 13, 1931, for limiting the manufacture and regulating the distribution of narcotic drugs as amended by protocol signed at Lake Success on December 11, 1946;
3. Senate Resolution No. 128—Ratification of the international plant protection convention signed at Rome between December 6, 1951, and May 11, 1952;
4. Senate Resolution No. 129—Ratification of the treaty of friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Dominican Republic signed at Washington on November 2, 1952;
5. Senate Resolution No. 130—Ratification of the treaty of friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Cuba signed at Washington on September 3, 1952; and
6. Senate Resolution No. 131—Ratification of the treaty of friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of India, signed at Manila on July 11, 1952.

The designation of Melencio Nadonga and Rafael B. Icasiano as acting councilors of Quezon City, vice Ponciano Reyes and Jesus V. Merritt, respectively, was also announced by Malacañan. Enrique T. Ramirez was also designated as acting councilor of Quezon City, vice suspended councilor Adolfo Eufemio. The three acting councilors took their oath of office before Executive Secretary Marciano Roque at 5:30 p.m. in Malacañan.

June 2:

The President held separate conferences in the morning with some Cabinet members who called, to consult him on matters pertaining to their respective departments and on some bills which had been referred to them for comment and recommendation prior to final action by the Chief Executive. He also received some senators and representatives shortly after 12 noon, and later some provincial officials who attended the last LP convention came to bid the President good-bye and to receive further instructions before returning to their respective localities.

In the evening, the President conferred with top leaders of the Liberal Party at Malacañan to map out the all-out campaign and party strategy to clinch the victory in the coming November elections. Present at the conference were Speaker Perez, Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, Senator Vicente Madrigal, and Governor Eliseo Quirino of Ilocos Sur. The President gave his political leaders the “go signal” to launch the political campaign in the provinces and promised to lead personally an intensive nation-wide drive for all the Liberal Party candidates in the coming elections.

June 3:

The President released ₱300,000 for the construction of the Pulilan-Candaba highway in Bulacan. The release of this amount starts the implementation of the administration's project of reclaiming and developing the Candaba swamp

area. This highway will traverse cultivated rice fields more than 90 per cent of the way and may be connected to branch roads in the future to the towns of San Luis, San Simon, and Apalit in Pampanga.

The President approved the proposal of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission to send two geologists for the “establishment of a mutually satisfactory program of preliminary reconnaissance in connection with the proposed cooperative uranium exploration in the Philippines.” The geologists are “coming here sometime next month.

The President approved the appointment of Iñaki Larrazabal as Mayor of Ormoc City, vice Lucilo Conui resigned. The new mayor promptly took his oath of office before Executive Secretary Marciano Roque about noon at Malacañan.

June 5:

The President directed Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to mobilize all the government agencies to extend relief to victims of typhoon *Judy*, following reports in the papers of the extent of the damage wrought by the typhoon in Central and Northern Luzon. Secretary Roque in turn instructed the Red Cross to coordinate all relief work in the typhoon areas. The Social Welfare Administration was also directed to send immediately relief workers to Central and Northern Luzon;

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque revealed in the evening that allotments from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office fund earmarked for charity clinics and hospitals have suffered severe cuts owing to decreased sales of sweepstakes tickets during the past few years. Commenting on an editorial published in the morning by one of the daily papers blaming the Executive Office for the alleged delay in the release of sweeps allotments for the Quezon Institute, Secretary Roque, in his capacity as acting general manager and chairman of the PCS board of directors, explained that the Quezon Institute is not the only one affected by the decreased sales, adding that the amended sweepstakes law does not provide any funds for any beneficiary institution, specifically the Quezon Institute.

The President conferred for an hour with Speaker Eugenio Perez and Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo at Malacañan in the evening to complete plans for the Liberal Party campaign for the forthcoming elections. The President was in very high spirits and greatly satisfied with the Speaker’s reports on political developments which tend to insure victory for the Liberal Party in the November polls.

June 6:

Malacañan said that Ramon Magsaysay’s claiming credit, among other things, for capturing the communist politburo is another clear instance of how phony is his pretension for his matureness and fitness for the presidency. In the first place, Malacañan pointed out, if Magsaysay were honest to himself and to the people, he should have the decency to give due credit to the President and to the Armed Forces for the politburo roundup. It was the President, Malacañan said, who, after gathering all the evidences from his personal intelligence operatives, called Magsaysay to the Palace and told him to effect the arrest of the politburo leaders. With this presidential directive, the army operatives swooped down on the Huk leaders, Malacañan said. This statement was corroborated by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque who issued a statement this same day that the arrest of the communist politburo in the Philippines in 1950 was a feat accomplished not only by any one man, much less Magsaysay, nor was it done overnight.

The President signed Proclamation No. 394, fixing June 12, 1953, for the organization of the City of Tacloban, Leyte. He also signed the appointments of six city officials of the new chartered city. The present mayor, vice mayor, and the councilors of Tacloban will continue to hold office until the next election for officials of chartered cities. The creation of the new city is provided for in Republic Act No. 760.

June 7:

Malacañan noted with apprehension the queer metamorphosis which a dose of politics has done to Carlos P. Romulo, transforming him overnight from the diplomat that he was reputed to be to a demagogic politician. In officially launching his Democratic Party at Plaza Miranda, Malacañan pointed out, Romulo revealed that his once clear and sound mind has become befuddled and poisoned, no longer capable of straight thinking. To Romulo's accusation that the administration is weak and erratic, Malacañan offered his own reputation of his statement at Plaza Miranda, warning of the beginnings of a dictatorship. Now, either the administration is weak and erratic or it is so strong that it has tendencies of a dictatorial regime, Malacañan said.

In another statement, Malacañan charged Ramon Magsaysay with deliberate lying when he indicated the President before the people of Magallon, Negros Occidental, of being partly responsible *for* the death of Moises Padilla, defeated candidate for mayor of Magallon. Malacañan said that Magsaysay was the Secretary of National Defense when the crime was committed and as such is more called to account for failure to provide Padilla with bodyguards, Magsaysay's claim that he had threatened to resign when there was delay in the prosecution of Padilla's followers was branded by Malacañan as brazen lie.

June 8:

The different boards of examiners have the authority to promulgate necessary rules and regulations and prescribe collegiate courses for the professions they respectively regulate, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque ruled. However, "as a matter of practice, the Office of the President will not approve the rules and regulations prescribed by the board of examiners until they shall have received the views of the Secretary of Education, the Director of Private Schools, and the deans of colleges concerned," Secretary Roque added. The decision was issued in answer to a request for clarification by the NAMEI Polytechnic Institute.

The President directed all government agencies concerned to insure the continuity of public services in view of the typhoons and flood season that has just set in. During his conference with Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo in the morning, the President said he did not want the public services to be caught flatfooted in the event of an emergency as had happened in the past. The Chief Executive also inquired from Secretary Lorenzo on the progress of the work on the flood control project in Manila. He told the Secretary to accelerate the work before greater inconveniences be caused on the city population.

The President expressed gratification over Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa's report during his brief call at the Palace in the evening that the government's program of providing land for the landless had been given another concrete boost with the promulgation of a forestry administrative order declaring 12,316 hectares of timber lands available for agriculture purposes. Secretary Mapa signed the order the previous day.

June 9:

The President directed the government's price administration board to undertake a more vigorous price control enforcement drive throughout the country with a view to pegging down the prices of essential commodities at the level fixed by laws. He also instructed Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda to speed up the survey of all industries in the country, new and old, in order to bring up to date the data and information on Philippine industries. The President conferred with Balmaceda at Malacañan and instructed him to take all the necessary measures to halt any tendency of prices of foodstuff and other essential items to go up in typhoon stricken areas.

In keeping with determined objective of the administration to bring the price of primary commodities within the means of the masses, the PRISCO will sell rice beginning June 10 rice at ₱0.75 and ₱0.80 a ganta, Malacañan announced. This decision of the PRISCO to sell rice at further reduced prices was made during the meeting of its board of directors in the afternoon. The sale will be made in all metropolitan stores of the PRISCO. The PRISCO management has been authorized to acquire stalls in the market, if necessary.

June 10:

For the first time since the recurrence of his foot ailment some three weeks ago, the President left Malacañan about 10 a.m., and motored to the Luneta to inspect the work on the Quirino grandstand which is being readied for the July 4 Independence Day celebrations. He was accompanied by his daughter Vicky, granddaughter Marivic, and Judge Antonio Quirino. On the way back, the President ordered the driver to pass through the Escolta, as granddaughter Marivic asked her grandpa to buy her a new pair of shoes. Big crowds shopping on the Escolta shouted *Mabuhay* as the presidential car slowed down to enable Marivic and her grandpa to “window-shop” from their car.

Upon his return to the palace at 11 a.m., the President conferred with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who brought him a pile of pending state papers. Then he received members of the LP-strategy committee who reported on matters taken up at their three-hour meeting at Malacañan earlier in the morning.

In compliance with the President’s orders to provide lands for veterans, Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, chairman of the Board of Liquidators signed and handed the deeds of sale of 33,000 hectares of former Japanese plantations in Davao to Philippine Veterans Legion National Commander Teofilo Rivera. The deeds of sale stipulate that the occupants may pay the prices of the plantations in full or in ten installments.

June 11:

The President appointed Humberto Amorante y Ustaris to fill the only vacancy for a Filipino midshipman at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Amorante received the highest rating in the final examination given by the United States Navy for admission to the Annapolis Naval Academy. He hails from Biñan, Laguna, and was third year student in the College of Engineering, University of the Philippines, when he took the examinations for midshipman.

The President was loudly cheered by the big crowd gathered to witness the inauguration of the Liberal Party national headquarters on Mendiola and Legarda Streets when he appeared there unexpectedly in the afternoon. Accompanied by his daughter Vicky and granddaughter Marivic, the President arrived there shortly after 5 p.m. His arrival was greeted with a display of fireworks and enthusiastic cheers of *Mabuhay* from the large throng who were glad to see him well, contrary to rumor that he was seriously ill. He stayed there only ten minutes, and did not get off the car upon the advice of his physicians.

June 12:

The President received Dr. Roland R. Renne, chief of the U. S. Mutual Security Agency in the Philippines, who assured him that no change in America’s major commitments in economic assistance to foreign countries is being contemplated by the new administration. Dr. Renne said that the Philippines is practically the only country in this part of the world that receives economic aid from U. S. under its huge MSA program. The assistance revived by other countries are substantially military, and the only other country in Asia that is receiving non-military aid is Thailand whose funds has been cut down to \$5 million, which is many times smaller than that allotted to the Philippines. Dr. Renne informed the President that although there would be a few months’ delay on account of the “general reorganization” now going on in” Washington, American aid would nevertheless continue under the MSA program.

Representing the President as guest of honor at the inauguration of Tacloban City in the morning, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque declared that our democracy should develop citizens and institutions capable of creating wealth and opportunity. He summed up President Quirino’s ideology, and urged the people; officials, and other leaders of the new city to ponder upon this ideology and check it with their own principles and performance.

In his message on the 55th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence by the Aguinaldo Revolutionary Government, the President said that “it is easy enough today to fall into the mistake of taking for granted the blessings of freedom. . . and for every new generation to take lightly what it has cost to realize those blessings.”

June 13:

The President went with LP Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, for a one-hour ride in the morning along the Dewey Boulevard, to have a whiff of sea breeze. Returning to Malacañan about 12 noon, the President conferred with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who reported on the inauguration of Tacloban City the day before. He also conferred with Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff, who called at Malacañan to report on the general peace and order situation in the country. Then he received Minister Narciso Ramos who reported on the Far Eastern situation. Minister Ramos had recently arrived from his station in New Delhi. The President also conferred with Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri on the latest developments in Korea.

June 14:

The President honored the delegates to the third national convention of the Philippine National Red Cross with a tea party at Malacañan in the afternoon. Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, who represented the President, and Mrs. Victoria Quirino-Gonzalez, Malacañan hostess, welcomed the delegates. Speaking for the President, Secretary Montinola lauded the noble task of the PNRC which is always ready to alleviate the sufferings of the stricken people wherever and whenever danger, catastrophe, or calamity strikes.

June 15:

With a voice soft but full of emotion, the President who had just recovered from recent illness delivered his 56th monthly radio chat to the nation from his study room in Malacañan. An enthusiastic crowd greeted him in his study room. The President deplored the fact that his political opponents “took advantage of the opportunity to make my illness a national issue, despite their so-called high level campaign standards, their wishes out-gallop their thoughts for office.” But what is most unfortunate, the President said, is that at such a time when he could really be defenseless, he was hit hardest, when his opponents thought and speculated that he was already beyond hope of recovering. However, he said, the situation does not discourage him, but rather it has stimulated his recovery and reinforced his faith in the goodness and sound judgment of our people to hope with full confidence of new victory, for, in the last analysis, the President said, what has been accomplished in the service of the people in the last seven years cannot be repealed by any amount of dishonest thinking and rhetoric. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2224-2225, for full text of the radio chat.)

June 16:

The President issued Proclamation No. 398, for the observance of Barrio Improvement Week from October 4 to 10, 1953, to make the people realize better the significance of the agricultural and industrial programs of the government in terms of uplifting the living conditions of the masses, especially those in the barrios, and to foster rural-mindedness and leadership among them. In issuing the proclamation a few days before he explained for the United States. the President decided to make this observance permanent in nature. After the observance of the Barrio Improvement Week this year, it will be observed beginning with the first Sunday of every October thereafter.

Commenting on statements in the press calling on the President to take a hand in the apprehension of the killer of Manuel Monroy, Malacañan said: “The law will take its inexorable course and the law enforcement agencies can be depended upon to do their duty under the circumstances.” The steps already taken by the NBI and by the police forces of Manila and Pasay City on the Monroy case and the vigor with which investigation work is being carried out, as reported by the daily press themselves, should prove the earnestness of those entrusted with the solution of the crime and the apprehension of the criminal, the Malacañan spokesman added. “Malacañan has been assured that there will be no let-up in the combined efforts of the police services to get after the culprit and give him what’s his due,” he said further.

Malacañan requested Congress to rush the submission of enrolled copies of 15 bills from the House and seven bills from the Senate, as the President has only up to June 20, 1953, to act on bills passed by Congress in the last session.

The President signed House Bill No. 3280, appropriating ₱13,121,000 for relief in the provinces visited by typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and volcanic actions in 1951 and 1952. He also signed 18 other bills and Proclamation No. 307, reserving for settlement purposes a parcel of land situated on the plains in Isabella.

Upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board, the President issued Executive Order No. 600, fixing the ceiling prices of Japanese sardines to further implement his order of pegging down prices of essential commodities. As fixed by the executive order, one oval can of *Madam* and *Pacific Sky* brands of sardines costs ₱0.60, and one tall round can costs ₱0.28. The order takes effect three days after this date of signing of the executive order.

June 17:

The President designated Minister Salvador Lopez as Philippine representative and Jose D. Ingles, as alternate representative to the 16th regular session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations which will be held in Geneva from June 30 to August 7, 1953. Felix Rosal was designated as secretary of the Philippine delegation. The coming session of the ECOSOC will be the last session at which the Philippines will be represented, as Philippine membership to the ECOSOC expires this year.

The President signed in the afternoon the “Magna Carta” of Labor, Senate Bill No. 423, House Bill No. 825, entitled “An Act to Promote Industrial Peace and for Other Purposes.” In an extemporaneous speech before signing the bill, the President told the big crowd of laborers representing different labor unions of the country that they should rejoice over the signing of the bill because it is designed to secure industrial peace in the Philippines. He added that the rights, duties and obligations, as well as privileges of both the laborers and the management are so well defined, calculated to be the basis of an intelligent interpretation of the intent of the Legislature, which is far-reaching.” He asserted that the bill will “spell success in our industrial program if carried out to the spirit and letter of the law.” The President expressed great hopes and confidence that the laborers would do their part in the fulfillment of their rights, duties; and obligations, with due consideration to the rights of management. (See *Historical Papers and Documents* p. 2226 for full text of the extemporaneous speech.)

June 18:

The President was presented in the afternoon with an oil portrait by the Philippine Telecommunications Union as a token of their appreciation and gratitude for the salary standardization and the increases they received from the administration. In a resolution accompanying the oil portrait, the telecom employees thanked the President for the deep concern he has always shown in behalf of the low-salaried workers in the government.

Shortly after his return from a 30-minute motor ride on Dewey Boulevard, upon being informed that a large delegation of tenants were at the Executive Office Building clamoring to see him, the President ordered his aides to admit the delegation into the Palace grounds where he addressed them, from the balcony of his study room. The delegation composed of some 500 men, women, and children urged the Chief Executive to approve H. B. No. 3355, providing for the expropriation of landed estates in Manila where thousands of tenants are at present settled, and prohibiting the increase of rentals on those estates. Another delegation from the Philippine Dental Association called at Malacañan to present a resolution requesting the approval of six bills affecting the dental profession.

The President vetoed late at night five bills, among which is the bill transferring the Sugar Quota Administration from the Department of Commerce and Industry to the Philippine Sugar Institute, because the measure “would place an instrumentality of the Government under a governing body whose interest are directly affected by the functions of the said instrumentality.” This bill is obviously against sound governmental policy, said the President.

June 19:

The President received at noon Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., who called at Malacañan to report on the World Health Organization conferences in Geneva in which he represented the Philippines. Secretary Salcedo reported that he came home with \$350,000 as WHO assistance to the Philippines for the year 1953-54, and that he had been elected chairman on technical discussions of the 6th WHO assembly, an honor given only to-the world’s outstanding men in public health.

Early in the morning, the President instructed his protocol officer to have a wreath placed on the Rizal monument on the Luneta on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the Filipino martyr-hero.

June 20:

The President spent the whole day working on pending bills in his desire to meet the deadline at midnight. Assisted by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and other Cabinet members, the President pored over more than 100 bills brought to him by the Executive Secretary till 2 p.m.

About 5 p. m., the President went down the Palace to receive thousands of “army men, war widows, and veterans who gathered at the Palace grounds to witness the signing of House Bill No. 1228, extending to them the benefits of the backpay law. Some 10,000 members of the armed forces and veterans standing shoulder-to-shoulder on the Palace front lawn cheered the President as he signed the army backpay bill, extending; the benefits of the backpay law to members of the Philippine Army, recognized guerrillas, and officers of the Philippine Scouts. The bill also allows the use of certificates of indebtedness for the purchase of public lands and government properties and for payment of obligations subsisting at the time of the approval of this act. In an extemporaneous speech delivered before the signing of the bill, the President paid high tribute to the soldiers, the veterans, and the guerrillas, “who have sacrificed their lives in order to serve their country and liberate it from the invaders and who are deserving of recognition because of their great sacrifices during-the last war.”

After the signing of the army backpay bill, the President returned to the Palace reception hall where he received different delegations, among which was the Philippine delegation to the Boy Scout jamboree in Switzerland who called to receive the presidential banner to be delivered to the President of the Swiss Republic.

June 21:

Malacañan announced that, out of 186 bills passed by both houses of Congress, 162 by the House of Representatives and 24 by the Senate, the President approved 139 and allowed two to become laws without his signature. Of these approved bills, 123 originated from the House while 18 came from the Senate. The number of bills vetoed by the President this year numbering 45 has been the highest so far of the vetoed bills, 39 were House bills while six came from the Senate. The two bills which lapsed into laws unsigned by the President were Senate Bill No. 388, transferring the medical and dental services to the Department of Education and Senate Bill No. 371, otherwise known as the “bar flunkers bill.”

The following statement of the President for allowing Bill No. 371 to become law without signature was also released by Malacañan. “I have allowed Senate Bill No. 371, entitled “An Act to Fix the Passing Marks for Bar Examinations from 1947 up to and including 1955” to become law without my signature. In spite of the veto of Senate Bill No. 12, the Congress has insisted on passing the Senate Bill No. 371, now under consideration. Although I believe that ether moral considerations greatly outweigh any possible merits of this bill and I am strongly inclined to disapprove the same, it is felt that in deference to the insistent will of Congress, it is desirable that the bill be allowed to become a law in order that it may once and for all undergo the real test as to its validity and thereby ultimately conclude this controversy between the legislative and the judicial branches of the government.”

One of the important bills signed by the President before the deadline last night was House Bill No. 3749 which became Republic Act No. 906, providing for the budget of the Government for the fiscal year 1953-1954. The law appropriates a grand total of ₱472,283,660. Out of this amount, ₱401,314,500 are for ordinary expenditures and ₱70,969,160 are for extraordinary expenditures. The Department of National Defense got the lion’s share with a total appropriation of ₱174,919,910 and the Department of Education trails second with an appropriation of ₱165,630,785. The President signed the ₱57 million public works bill after vetoing some items totalling ₱340,000. (See pp. 2160-2176 for the texts of some of the bills signed this month by the President.)

June 22:

A large delegation of barrio lieutenants and political leaders from Laoag, Ilocos Norte, called at Malacañan in the morning to pledge the solid support of their town to the candidates of the Liberal Party. Representative Antonio Raquiza who accompanied the delegation said that despite Gov. Damaso Samonte, the only Nacionalista governor in Northern Luzon, Laoag will vote overwhelmingly for LP standard bearers.

June 23:

The President had a two-hour conference at Malacañan in the morning with Speaker Eugenio Perez and Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo Campaign plans of the Liberal Party were taken up during the conference.

June 24:

The President received the credentials of N. H. Ferdinando Wiel, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy, and of Nai Chitti Sucharitakul envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Thailand. The credentials of the two new diplomatic representatives were received in separate ceremonies held in the morning at Malacañan. Minister Wiel succeeds Guiseppe Telesio di Toritto, while Minister Sucharitakul replaces Luang Bhadravadi.

The President will leave for the United States on Saturday, June 27, for a thorough physical check-up and medical treatment, according to an announcement issued by Malacañan. He will enter John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and is expected to be away for a few weeks.

June 25:

The President released the sum of ₱1,057,000 for the “maintenance and improvement of important roads and bridges supporting heavy motor vehicles traffic. He also authorized Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., to sign on behalf of the Philippine Government the Agreement on the Plan of Operation for Assistance to the Institute of Hygiene of the University of the Philippines. Under this assistance plan, the John Hopkins University will assist the University of the Philippines by giving further training to the faculty of the Institute of Hygiene.

The President held conferences in the morning with different members of the Cabinet preparatory to his departure to the United States to undergo physical check-up at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. After an early morning breakfast, he summoned Executive Secretary Marciano Roque with whom he conferred on the preparation of an executive order laying down a system whereby he could direct the affairs of the country during his few weeks’ stay in the United States.

June 26:

The President approved the Philippine Government’s participation as a signatory to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. In recommending that the Philippine Government affix its signature to the Convention, Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde observed that “the Philippines being the first Asian country to grant to its women equal political rights with men, it should be among the first signatories thereto.”

The President reassured a large group of political leaders and well-wishers who went to Malacañan at noon to wish him *bon voyage* and speedy recovery that he is coming back as soon as he can after undergoing medical check-up at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and take part in the nation-wide campaign for the Liberal Party ticket.

Among the papers signed by the President before he enplaned for the United States were two proclamations and two executive orders, Malacañan announced. The President signed Proclamation No. 400, declaring the period from July 13 to 19 of every year as Philippine Business Week, and Proclamation No. 399, authorizing the Philippine Tuberculosis Society to conduct a national fund and educational drive from August 19 to September 30, 1953.

The President also signed Executive Order No. 602, creating seven barrios in the municipality of Gamay, Samar, and Executive Order No. 604, fixing the boundary line between the new town of Dona Alicia and the towns of Tagum and Pantukan, Davao, and transferring the seat of government to Tagum.

On behalf of the President, Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo received in the afternoon a big delegation of tenant association. He was wildly cheered when he said that one of the prime objectives of the Quirino administration is the well being of the masses which can be realized when every Filipino family is given his own home. Yulo explained that the desire of the President is to see every man happy and contented, settled in his own home, and "the owner of his own little castle where his children could be raised in good surroundings."

The President received Representative and Mrs. Cipriano Alias at the Palace in the evening. In the presence of Senator Geronima T. Pecson of Pangasinan and Lt. Luis (Chito) "Gonzalez, the President's son-in-law, the President was closeted for an hour with Representative and Mrs. Alias. The nature of their conversation was not disclosed. The couple called at the Palace to return the call of Lt. Chito Gonzalez earlier in the afternoon, and to extend to the President their wish for his speedy recovery.

June 27:

The President designated Undersecretary of Labor Aurelio Quitariano as Acting Secretary of Labor in the absence abroad of the regular incumbent Labor Secretary. The President also reappointed Sergio Bayan as member of the Board of Governors of the Philippine National Red Cross, and appointed Director Ramon Tapales of the U. P. Conservatory of Music as representative of the Philippines to the international conference on the role and place of music in the education of young people and adults to be held in Brussels from June 29 to July 9, 1953.

Malacañan approved new regulations governing the selection, designation, assignment, duties, compensation, and supervision of Armed Forces attaches to Philippine diplomatic missions. According to the new regulations, only regular officers who completed at least four-year baccalaureate degree in a duly accredited local institution of learning or its equivalent are eligible for appointment as military attaches. The ranks set by the old rules for senior and assistant military attaches were reduced by one grade. Under the new rules a senior military attache may be either a major or lieutenant colonel, while an assistant attache may be a 1st lieutenant, a captain, or a major.

The President issued Executive Order No. 603, designating the Price Stabilization Corporation (PRISCO) to supervise the sale and distribution of flour to flour consumers throughout the country. He also signed Executive Order No. 606, fixing the ceiling prices of galvanized iron sheets and aluminum sheets. The galvanized iron sheets covered by this executive order are those made in the United States, Japan, Belgium, and England. Executive Order No. 606 takes effect three days after June 26, 1953. Both executive orders were signed upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board to stop blackmarketing of these commodities and stabilize their prices.

In the course of his formal chats with different officials of the government, as well as political leaders who turned up in great numbers at Malacañan to bid him goodspeed, the President expressed regret that he had to leave the country at this time when there are so much to be done here. "But I think that the nation will gain more by my going in order to get rid of my ailment as soon as possible," he said, adding that the nation has an investment in his health. He said he was going to John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where he could recover faster and better because this hospital has his case history. He exhorted everyone to "keep the home fires burning" during his "absence. He added, "I have complete faith in those I am leaving behind."

Supporting the President's statement that his ailment is not serious enough so as to prevent him from discharging his official duties, the President's head physician, Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, issued the following statement: "The President has been advised to make this trip to the United States in order to hasten his complete recovery from the recent acute illness he suffered. After three weeks of observation it was evident that his convalescence was being unduly prolonged because of pressure of work. It is imperative that he be placed in an environment conducive to physical and emotional rest . . . A few weeks of physical and emotional rest should restore his health, for his recuperative powers have been amply shown on previous occasions."

The President took off for the United States aboard the PAL plane *Mindoro* at 5 p. m. A big crowd headed by the hierarchy of the Philippine government, top leaders of the Liberal Party, and the diplomatic corps gave the Chief Executive a warm and sympathetic sendoff at the Manila International Airport. The government officials were headed by Vice-President Fernando Lopez; the political leaders, by Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo; and the diplomatic corps, by Egidio Vagnozzi and Ambassador Raymond Spruance.

Before leaving for the United States, the President issued Executive Order No. 605, providing instructions to be followed in the conduct of public affairs during the time the President is outside the Philippines. (See pp. 2110-2111 for the complete text of the executive order.) The President also designated former Representative Juan V. Borra and Eulogio Garganera as acting mayor and vice mayor, respectively, of Iloilo City. Borra replaces Mayor Dominador Jover, and Garganera takes the place of Vice Mayor Joaquin Abanilla. The two city officials took their oath of office in the evening before Executive Secretary Marciano Roque.

June 28:

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque denounced as malicious and unjust the charge from certain quarters that Malacañan had posted guards in the premises of the Import Control Commission office for the purpose of removing incriminating papers that would involve the administration in alleged shady deals in the ICC. Secretary Roque said that no records or papers had been carted away by Malacañan guards as alleged by a local daily and that “on request of the ICC officials themselves, we have posted four Malacañan guards in the premises of the ICC office,” because of reports reaching Malacañan “to the effect that certain individuals and interested parties had been able to buy their way for sums varying from one peso to fifty pesos in and out of the ICC building at any time even at night, and were able to take away import license application, papers and records.” Some reports reaching Malacañan also said that some of the office equipment were also being removed. “Since the ICC is directly under the Office of the President, it is our responsibility to protect government property and important papers from getting lost,” Secretary Roque further stated.

The President arrived in Honolulu at 5:50 p. m. (Manila time) after what his chief physician, Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, described as restful airline trip of about 24 hours. Honolulu officials and big Filipino community flocked to the airport to welcome the Chief Executive who was in high spirits when the PAL airline *Mindoro* landed in Honolulu.

June 29:

Malacañan announced that the President while in Honolulu had sent a message to Ramon Magsaysay, NP presidential candidate, thanking him for his cablegram wishing the Chief Executive speedy recovery. The President’s message to Magsaysay said: “Appreciate your cablegram. Thanks for your best wishes.”

The PAL airline *Mindoro* carrying the President and other passengers returned to Honolulu after it had developed slight engine trouble in midair on its way to San Francisco, California, according to a message sent to Malacañan by Lt. Col. Jose Cardenas, senior aide to the President. The plane will resume flight to San Francisco at midnight, Manila time, or at 6 a. m., June 29, Honolulu time. Cardenas’ message also said that the President was resting at Tripler Hospital in Honolulu through the courtesy of Admiral Arthur Radford.

On instructions of the President before he enplaned for the United States, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released funds for various purposes, as follows: ₱658,430.50 for the operation and maintenance of public elementary schools; ₱65,989,96 for the purchase of supplies and equipment for the armed forces; ₱57,236.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Lagang-ilang National Agricultural School in Abra; ₱9,945.00 for the wages of emergency helpers and other expenses of the Indigent Children’s Hospital; ₱6,909.70 for the WHO-UNICEF assisted Treponematosi (Yaws) control project; and ₱1,300.00 for the operation of the Rural High School in Zambales.

Malacañan announced that the President signed on June 26 Executive Order No. 601, prescribing rules and regulations for the appointment of reserve officers in the regular force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The executive order was issued by virtue of Republic Act No. 645 which empowers the Chief Executive to appoint and

commission reserve officers in the regular force of the AFP, within a period of three years from July 1, 1952, and to prescribe rules and regulations therefor. (See pp. 2097-2108 for full text of the executive order.)

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque gave approval to the Italian request to name to the Philippines one of the ever lighted lamps on the way to the “Calvary of the Sacred Scene” in Sezzo Romano, Italy, where the Passion Play of Christ will be regularly played. The approval was granted through the Italian Legation. According to the Italian Legation, a line of continuously lighted lamps will be installed along the sides of the pathway leading to the “Calvary of the Sacred Scene” where an illuminated cross 50 meters high will be built as a symbol of Peace among men of goodwill.

June 30:

The President arrived at San Francisco at 10:30 a. m., Manila time. “He was so well on arrival that he could stand the cold wind in San Francisco without feeling chilly,” according to a statement sent, to the Malacañan Press Office by Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, the President’s chief physician accompanying him on the trip. From the San Francisco International Airport, the President was taken to the San Francisco Hotel where he ordered the regular menu of the hotel, and rested for a few hours. About 2.30-p. m., Manila time, the President resumed his air trip to Baltimore aboard the PAL plane *Mindoro* that took him to San Francisco.

Presided over by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, ranking member of the Cabinet, the Cabinet took steps to prepare the return to Japan of Japanese war prisoners who were pardoned by the President effective July 4, 1953. Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri was directed to take up with the head of the Japanese Mission in Manila the problem of transporting the war prisoners to Japan. Neri informed the Cabinet that the Japanese government will send a ship to bring back to Japan the Japanese war prisoners to be released from Muntinlupa on July 4. Neri also informed that the Speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives and the Japanese Foreign Minister had sent radiograms to the Foreign Affairs office expressing their gratefulness for President Quirino’s noble action in pardoning the Japanese war prisoners. The Cabinet was heartened by press reports emanating from Tokyo that as a result of the President’s decision in pardoning the Japanese war prisoners, Premier Yoshida now favors payment by the Japanese government of cash reparations aside from the service reparations that Japan had heretofore been willing to make.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: July, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

July 1:

The President reached Baltimore, Maryland, at 11:33 a.m., Manila Time, according to a dispatch received by Malacañan from Governor Eliseo Quirino, member of the President's party. Upon arrival in Baltimore, the President's personal physician, Dr. Agerico B. M. Gison, issued the following bulletin: "President Quirino demonstrated his physical stamina and wonderful recuperative powers. After undergoing the strenuous 11,000-mile trip from Manila, the President got out of the airplane looking refreshed and cheerful."

July 2:

Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison announced in Baltimore, that the Chief Executive "continued showing marked improvement despite his long tiresome trip." He added: "Johns. Hopkins evidently boosted immediately the President spirits." The President submitted to a one-hour X-ray examination and came out tired from the X-ray room, but otherwise in the same condition as in the previous day.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque denied the request of the provincial board of Misamis Occidental for authority to institute expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of certain parcels of land for future site of the PC enlisted men's barracks and residential district. In denying the request Secretary Roque singled out public necessity as the principal basis for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by municipal corporations, and that "such authority contemplates acquisition to meet an actual public necessity and not one to meet a future purpose."

Malacañan announced that Executive Secretary Marciano Roque lifted the suspension of some 49 jockeys previously found guilty by the Games and Amusement Board for, irregularities committed in connection with horse races. Secretary Roque also granted the request for withdrawal of appeals filed by 15 jockeys. The pardons are subject to the condition that "the unexpired portion of the suspension shall be added to the penalty for subsequent offense upon being found guilty." The action taken by the Executive Secretary was in accordance with the recommendation of the Games and Amusement Board itself.

July 3:

The President in a message released on the eve of Independence Day said: "The Progress of our Republic since its birth seven years ago in reconstruction from the debris of war . . . testifies to. the vision and vigor with which our people have carried on under their own banner of political freedom . . . What we have accomplished strengthens our faith and broadens our reliance on the mercy and wisdom of Divine Providence that watches over all nations." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 2736 for full text of the message.)

Malacañan released the names of 437 prisoners granted executive clemency by the President on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the Republic. Of the 437 prisoners pardoned, 114 are Japanese war prisoners and 323 are Filipino prisoners who were convicted by the People's Court and various courts of first instance of the Philippines, of treason and other offenses involving collaboration with the enemy during the Japanese occupation. In extending executive clemency to the Japanese war prisoners, the President was motivated by humanitarian motives and the fostering of early restoration of normal relations between the Philippines and Japan, Malacañan explained.

United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent his felicitations on the eve of the 7th anniversary of Philippine Independence. The message which was conveyed through Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Felino Neri said that the Philippines 7th independence anniversary celebration marks "the devotion of both the Filipino and the American peoples to the cherished principles of liberty and justice to all." In his note to Secretary Neri conveying the U. S. President's message, Ambassador Spruance said: "Permit me to convey to Your Excellency, on behalf of the President of the United States, as well as this Mission, most sincere felicitations on this Seventh Anniversary of your

Nation's Independence. . .” At the same time Ambassador Spruance expressed his thanks and that of his staff for the “most cordial congratulatory message dispatched by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, to President Dwight D. Eisenhower on the 177th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America.” Rulers of 14 other countries greeted President Quirino on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the Republic.

The yearly awarding of Presidential medals of merit to CAMP honorees took place in the evening at Malacañan Park during a tea party given by President Quirino in honor of the Civic Assembly of Women in the Philippines. Vice President Fernando Lopez distributed the awards on behalf of the President.

Malacañan announced that effective this day Dr. Leon Ma. Gonzales resumes his former duties as Director of the Bureau of Census and Statistics, by order of Executive Secretary Marciano Roque. Another order was issued for Acting Census Director Alfredo Eugenio, technical adviser to the President on engineering matters, to turn over the Census Office to Dr. Gonzales.

July 4:

Malacañan announced that according to dispatches received from Baltimore, Maryland, the President's condition is far from precarious as clearly indicated today (Saturday, Manila time) by a bulletin issued by his attending physicians upon conclusion of his second day of X-ray examination. Drs. William Reinhoff, Charles Austrian, and Agerico B. M. Sison, his attending physicians, issued the following medical bulletin: “The President after a good night's rest woke up fully recovered from yesterday's examination in the X-ray room and stood very well the continuation of X-ray studies this morning.”

In representation of President Quirino, Vice President Fernando Lopez received at Malacañan Palace in the morning some 400 guests at the Independence Reception commemorating the 7th anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines. The guests were headed by the highest Philippine government officials and the diplomatic corps led by papal nuncio Igidio Vagnozzi and American Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. General Emilio Aguinaldo was also present. The reception began at 10 a.m. with Vice President and Mrs. Fernando Lopez, Mrs. Eugenio Perez, Chief Justice and Mrs. Ricardo Paras, and Senate President Protempore and Mrs. Manuel C. Briones at the reception line.

July 5:

Malacañan announced the reappointment of Dr. Tranquilino E. Elicano as chairman of the Board of Medical Examiners for another term of three years expiring on August 7, 1956, and Dr. Manuel M. Aycardo, Jr., as chairman of the Board of Examiners for Mining engineers for another term of three years expiring June 30, 1956.

The President's condition “continues to be fair. He rested well and slept soundly during the night,” according to a dispatch sent from Baltimore by Governor Eliseo Quirino. “His attending physicians found' no necessity to issue a medical bulletin today considering that his condition is satisfactory. They agreed to give him two days respite for today and Sunday,” the dispatch stated further.

July 6:

Malacañan released the following statement issued by the President at Baltimore when asked about the 4th of July pardon of Japanese war prisoners: “. . . I should be the last one to pardon them as the Japanese killed my wife and three children, and five other members of my family. I am doing this because I do not want my children and my people to inherit, from me the hate for people who might yet be our friends for the permanent interest of our country. . .”

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released the sum of ₱465,000 for the maintenance, improvement, or construction of interprovincial and coast-to-coast road or for the maintenance and

improvement of roads subject to unusually heavy traffic.” Secretary Roque also released the sum of £170,000 for additional expenses in the maintenance, repair, and dredging of ports, piers, and wharves. Out of this amount, ₱100,000 will go for the repairs, maintenance, and dredging of the Port of Manila.

According to dispatches from Gov. Eliseo Quirino, the President took his first automobile ride through Baltimore for a little airing since his confinement at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Before the automobile ride, the President heard mass at his hospital suite, and then met the press and news photographers.

July 7:

The President ordered the setting up of an executive office for him in a room adjoining his hospital suite at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. According to the dispatch sent from Baltimore by Gov. Eliseo Quirino, the President has shown marked improvement, and he confers frequently with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde who keeps the Chief Executive informed of the current affairs in Manila and Washington.

The executive clemency extended by President Quirino to Japanese war prisoners in the Philippines, who have just been released and readied for return to their homeland, has been hailed by the press of Japan. In voicing “genuine gratitude” to the President and the people of the Philippines, the national press of Japan has been encouraged to ask that the example shown by the Philippine Chief Executive in the promotion of international good will, be emulated by other governments that have still in their custody many Japanese war prisoners.

The Cabinet directed an interdepartmental committee of experts to make an estimate of the value of sunken ships now littering Philippine sea lanes against the possible cost of salvaging them. Unable to act decisively for lack of sufficient data, the Cabinet voted to ask the Philippine panel of experts that negotiated the agreement to furnish the President’s advisory body with an estimate of the costs of advances to be made in food, some equipment, and other services of Japanese salvage team and with an estimate of the value of the scrap that might be recovered.

July 8:

The President was glad to learn of the statement made by U. S. Department officials in Washington restating the policy of American neutrality towards the November elections in the Philippines. The State Department reiterated the policy of neutrality of the United States because Ramon Magsaysay, Nacionalista presidential candidate, said in a speech he delivered in Dulag, Leyte, that American aid to the Philippines would stop if the present administration is not changed, thus presumptuously assuming the role of spokesman for the American government.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released a total of ₱2,978,000 for the maintenance, improvement, and construction of interprovincial and coast to coast roads and bridges all over the country, particularly those subjected to heavy traffic.

The Executive Secretary issued the ruling that a municipal mayor may act as a private prosecutor if allowed by the justice of the peace, inviting attention to section 2194 of the Revised Administrative Code which says that the municipal mayor being the executive officer of the municipality is “charged with the duty of seeing to it that the laws and municipal ordinances in his municipality are faithfully executed.”

July 9:

The President was successfully operated on for stomach ulcer at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was taken to the operating pavilion at 9 a.m. and was kept there until 10:30 a.m. Dr. William Reinhoff performed the operation with Doctors Charles Austrian, Agerico B. M. Sison, and Angel Florentin on the floor. The President’s ulcer was benign and had the size of a fifty cent piece, according to the physicians. It took Dr. Reinhoff only 30 minutes to remove it, but the physicians detained the President in the operating room for an hour more to examine his liver, kidney’s gall bladder, and duodenum which were all found to be in normal condition. The President’s condition was so good that

no stimulant or blood transfusion was necessary. The President' went through the operation smoothly and should be on his feet in ten days.

Malacañan was swamped with messages of congratulations and thanksgiving for the successful operation of the President at Baltimore. The messages came from people of all walks of life, from provincial governors, city mayors, barrio leaders, farmers, and labor organizations.

The four-man fund release committee composed of the Finance Secretary, the Auditor General, the Executive Secretary, and the Budget Commissioner met from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proper implementation of the new public works law which contains new provisions governing the release of public works funds. The committee set down an order of priorities among the various government projects to be undertaken this fiscal year.

July 10:

A thanksgiving high mass for the successful operation and speedy recovery of President Quirino was said at 8:30 a.m., at the PRO Cathedral in San Miguel. The mass was sponsored by the Cabinet members and their ladies, and was heard by government officials, employees, friends, and the general public.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque administered the oath of office to Councilor Benito H. Lopez as mayor of Baguio City vice Gil Mallari who resigned his post to accept other assignments in the government. The induction ceremonies took place at noon in the council of state room in Malacañan.

Acting by authority of the President, Executive Secretary Roque ordered the suspension for two months of Councilor Julio Falcone of Hindang, Leyte, for abuse of authority and culpable violation of law. The order of suspension of Councilor Falcone merely affirmed the decision of the Provincial Board of Leyte, finding the respondent guilty of maladministration and abuse of authority.

July 11:

Malacañan authorized Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo, Jr., to sign on behalf of the Philippines the plan of operations and supplementary agreement to the basic accord regarding the Schistosomiasis Control Pilot Project. Schistosomiasis is an intestinal disease caused by intestinal parasites. The disease is endemic in many areas in the south including Mindanao, Leyte, Samar, Mindoro, and the southernmost portion of Luzon. The' disease is often contacted through eating vector snails. The project to control the disease will be signed between the Philippine Government and the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the latest dispatch from Baltimore, the President has begun taking soft diet instead of the liquid food being given him since his operation. Dr. William Reinhoff, his surgeon, found his condition so satisfactory that he ordered a more liberal diet. The President began sitting up the previous day, and was expected to be on his feet the following day, the Baltimore dispatch said.

July 12:

Acting on authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque authorized the release of ₱1,400,000 for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of national and provincial roads and bridges as well as the streets and bridges in chartered cities. Fifty-two provinces and 28 cities will receive, their corresponding shares from the amount released.

Secretary Roque, also on authority of the President, indorsed to the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources the decision of the Cabinet in its meeting on July 7, 1953, directing the Bureau of Lands to make a preliminary subdivision of the squatted government land at Quezon Boulevard, corner C Lerma Street. The Cabinet directed that in subdividing the land, toe size of the lots should be determined in consultation with the National Planning

Commission in accordance with established regulations on the matter. The subdivision work will also include a determination of the ownership and actual occupation and existing improvements on the property in question.

Malacañan took steps for the acquisition of the Catholic Pavilion in the International Fair either by purchase, lease, or donation for the purpose of utilizing it as a public reading center. Executive Secretary Roque referred the matter to Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda in the latter's capacity as chairman of the board of directors of the Philippines International Fair.

July 13:

The President is fast recovering from the effects of his operation and is pronounced past the critical period. He has been resting comfortably well since the whole day the preceding day and has been sitting up most of the time. His physicians are busy making a complete check-up of his condition while he is recovering from the operation, according to the dispatch from Gov. Eliseo Quirino at Baltimore.

Malacañan authorized the Solicitor General to institute escheats proceedings against aliens who had acquired real estate property after the promulgation of the Supreme Court decision on the Krivenko case. The move was sparked by a petition from the Magdalena Tenants Association of Tondo Manila, who are being ejected by their new landlord, the Christian Gospel' reportedly an alien corporation. The property which consists of 11 262 square meters located at Mayhaligue and Magdalena Streets in Tondo, is at present occupied by some 400 families most of whom had been there from 35 to 50 years. It was purchased by the Christian Gospel Chapel for ₱248,000 after the Supreme Court had made its decision on the Krivenko case.

Malacañan announced furthermore that Executive Secretary Roque has turned down the appeal by the Polo Municipal Council of the decision of the Provincial Board of Bulacan disapproving a municipal ordinance imposing a fee of ₱5 upon each marriage solemnized by the municipal mayor pursuant to article 76 of the Civil Code. According to article 76 of the Civil Code, a man and a woman of major age who have lived as husband and wife for at least five years without having been married to each other may now be married without the need of a marriage license. The same article provides for a fee of ₱1 for solemnization of ordinary and regular marriages.

July 14:

The President worked on the draft of his 57th monthly radio chat Monday morning, July 13, Baltimore, time, according to a dispatch received from Baltimore. The dispatch said further that the President is now less restricted from receiving visitors and that his recovery is proceeding very satisfactorily according to an announcement issued by his physician

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque requested Acting Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo and Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson to give their respective versions of the incident which almost led to a shooting affray between Lacson's bodyguards and those of Castelo Monday night in the premises of the Shell-borne Hotel on Dewey Boulevard. The President was advised by Secretary Roque of the incident as reported in the newspapers.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the National Development Company to sell its can-making machinery and equipment to the Rose Packing Inc., for the sum of ₱250,000, in consonance with the Government's policy of disposing of its enterprises the moment a private concern is ready to take over. The Rose Packing, Inc., is a Filipino-owned domestic corporation which cans meat, vegetables, and fruits.

The Cabinet also approved the recommendation of the Defense Secretary to send Maj. Eulalio Varona of the research development division of the AFP to the United States to work for the patents with the U. S. Patent Office of three of his inventions as follows: BIL-VAR submachine gun, Bill stabilizer automatic weapon, and VAR double barrel weapon.

Official resolutions of gratitude to President Quirino and the Filipino people were received at Malacañan from the Japanese Government for the pardon and repatriation of Japanese war prisoners in the Philippines. The resolutions came from the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors of Japan. Another resolution was received from the Special Committee of the House of Representatives on Repatriation of Oversea Japanese and Assistance to the Bereaved Families. These resolutions were transmitted by the Japanese mission in Manila to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

July 15:

The President warned the nation that certain Filipinos were “grossly misrepresenting Philippine conditions in the United States and that this posed an invitation for “direct foreign interference and intervention,” in his 57th monthly radio chat from his bedroom at Johns Hopkins Hospital beamed to the Philippines. Inferentially accusing his political enemies of making these gross misrepresentation, the President said “This kind of publicity has been spread by words of mouth from men who, receiving no sympathy at home, desire to create sympathy somewhere else. He voiced pleasure that since he left Manila, “I have not received any report of any event at home that would have marred the normal functioning of the government or disturbed the tranquility of the nation.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2736-2737, for full text of the radio chat.)

A dispatch received from Baltimore reported that the President is rapidly convalescing. During the delivery of his radio chat at his suite in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, he spoke with usual force and showed no fatigue although he had worked steadily whipping up his speech into final form hours before the recording. The President’s physicians were very much pleased over the rapid progress of his recovery.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, by authority of the President, approved a special budget of the Philippine General Hospital for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954, in the amount of ₱141,417.34. Secretary Roque also approved the ₱23,060 supplemental special budget of the Fiber Inspection Service and authorized the release of P560.49 for the repair of the Papatawen Communal irrigation System in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. Furthermore, Secretary Roque authorized the sending of 50,000 cakes of laundry soap to the United Nations command in Korea for the use of the members of the United Nations forces.

July 16:

The Philippine Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) signed at 10 a.m. the plan of operation and supplementary agreement for the basic accord regarding schistosomiasis, an intestinal disease caused by intestinal parasites often contacted through eating vector snails. The agreement was signed by Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., on behalf of the Philippines, at the office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Dr. I. C. Fang signed for the WHO. Secretary Salcedo and Dr. Fang also signed at 11 a.m. an agreement between the Philippine Government and the WHO and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health providing for assistance to the Institute of Hygiene, University of the Philippines. Dr. Stabbins also signed the agreement in his capacity as dean of the School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins.

July 16:

The President is steadily improving according to the latest dispatch received from Baltimore. Attending physicians all expressed satisfaction after making their daily call in the morning at the President’s hospital suite. The President was reported to have expressed great pleasure upon receiving the bouquet sent over to him by the Malacañan Press Club with their wishes for his speedy recovery. The Malacañan Press Club received a radiogram from the President thanking the members “for your beautiful flowers.”

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque administered, the oath of office in the morning to Lope Damasco as governor of Bukidnon, vice Marcos Resina, resigned. By authority of the President, Secretary Roque also designated Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez to sign for the Philippine Government a formal agreement, with the United Nations regarding the assignment in the Philippines of a UN specialist in child welfare. Miss Evelyn Bauch, the UN specialist, will be on duty with the Philippine Government for three months.

July 17:

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released in the morning P2 million to the Bureau of Lands to finance the survey and sub-division of public lands. The sum will come from the lump sum appropriation of P10 million under Republic Act No. 310, otherwise known as the Public Land Survey and Subdivision Fund, to be spent over a period of five years. Secretary Roque also approved the principal special budget allotting the sum of P193,135 for the operational expenses of the Civil Aeronautics Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954.

July 18:

Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez was inducted into office as Acting Auditor General of the Philippines by Executive Secretary Roque at 10 a.m. Gimenez takes the place of Auditor General Manuel Agregado who left by plane earlier in the morning for a tour of inspection of the finances of the Philippine embassies, legations, and consulates abroad.

At noon Executive Secretary Roque formally inaugurated the newly established telephone line between Manila and Batangas.

July 19:

According to a dispatch from Baltimore received at Malacañan, the President's physicians in Johns Hopkins Hospital announced that the X-ray tests taken of the President, Friday (Baltimore time) indicated that his stomach is functioning well and is gradually returning to normal.

The President signed the pardon papers of Shimpei Harada, Koike Kaneyuki, and Takao Tsubaki, three Japanese POW's whose death sentences had been previously commuted to five imprisonment in the 4th of July presidential pardons. The pardon papers had been flown to Johns Hopkins Hospital. Letters from private persons in Japan continued pouring in, thanking the President for his benevolence and generosity in pardoning the Japanese prisoners of war who had been imprisoned in Muntinlupa.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque reiterated his previous statement that there are no longer any Malacañan agents as all Malacañan agents had been disbanded since two years ago and turned over to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He added that any person who claims to be a Malacañan agent, like the one reported in the papers to have been killed in San Vicente, San Miguel, Bulacan, is an impostor.

July 20:

The President was very much pleased over the quick action taken by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque in taking control of the situation and proceeding to make due investigation immediately after the Shellborne incident. The President, however, refused to say more about the incident until he receives an official report on the matter, according to the latest dispatch from Baltimore, Maryland. According to the dispatch, the President's physicians were highly pleased with the President's condition, as his recovery is progressing quite well. The physicians consequently have allowed to have the President's room air-conditioned since the previous day to make him feel more comfortable in the oppressive summer heat.

The action of the United States Congress in voting appropriations for continued aid to the Philippines reflects the abiding confidence of the American Government in the administration of President Quirino, according to a statement released by Malacañan. "In effect, it constitutes a telling denial of the presumptuous claims of Presidential Candidate Ramon Magsaysay that Washington no longer has any faith in the present regime and of his assertion that if President Quirino is re-elected, such aid will be withheld," the Malacañan spokesman added. "It is immaterial that what has been appropriated does not come until after the November elections. . . . The undeniable fact is that

continued aid has been authorized and that it will serve, whoever may be chosen President of the Philippines,” Malacañan pointed out.

July 21:

The President surprised his attending physicians at Johns Hopkins Hospital when he asked for sugarcane juice, his favorite drink when he was taken ill in Manila some two months ago. Seeing the President recovering remarkably fast, the physicians had asked him what food he would wish most to take and he promptly replied: “Sugarcane juice.” The President was reported to have undergone another routine medical checkup the previous day after he had been allowed, to rest for two days. He spent, the evening reading a stack of mail from the Philippines and various parts of the United States. He also received invitations to visit New York City, Washington D. C, Massachusetts, California, Mexico City, and Argentina.

The executive committee formed to undertake preparations for a mammoth welcome for President Quirino when he returns to the Philippines next month, met at Malacañan’s council of state room. The committee is headed by Labor Secretary Jose Figueras and is made up of Cabinet members, bureau directors, and provincial and city officials.

July 22:

The President expressed satisfaction over the report of AFP Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque on the peace and order situation of the country. Informed of the unrelenting drive of the army against the Huks, the President wired Maj. Gen. Duque to continue the good work. The President also approved the inclusion of Senator Jose C. Locsin as delegate to the London Sugar Conference and the designation of Dr. Jose Mirasol of the Philippine Sugar Planters Association as adviser to the Philippine delegation. At a recent meeting, the Cabinet designated Minister Jose E. Romero as chief delegate and Salvador Oliveros and G. G. Gordon as alternates to the London Sugar Conference in London.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released ₱3 million for the operating expenses of 1,304 extension classes to be organized in July. Out of the amount, ₱2,190,720 will go to the salaries of 1,304 teachers needed for the new classes, and the rest will be for sundry expenses, furniture and equipment, and special purposes incident to the operation of the new classes.

Secretary Roque also put in a request with the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of National Defense for a fast, well-equipped launch to chase Moro pirates terrorizing outlying coasted villages in Zamboanga del Sur. The request was made immediately after receiving a telegram from Maj. Umpa, PC commander in that area, transmitting the appeal of the people of Turukan, Labangan, in Zamboanga del Sur for protection against the sea-faring dissidents.

July 23:

Malacañan released the text of the letter sent to President Quirino by United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower inviting the Philippine Chief Executive to visit Washington before he returns to the Philippines. President Quirino, who was very much delighted by the letter, said he would gladly visit Washington before returning home to express personally his thanks to President Eisenhower. President Quirino’s physicians who have been noting carefully the President’s condition for the last 24 hours are very much pleased with his continued improvement.

By the authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque mobilized various agencies of the government to forestall possible hunger in a small isolated coastal town of Isabela which had been hit hard by the recent typhoon *Judy*.

July 24:

Malacañan viewed with concern Ramon Magsaysay’s reported promise in Marbel, Cotabato, that if he gets elected, he will reverse the “mailed fist” policy of the government toward the Huks and instead adopt a “policy of

attraction.” Malacañan said that this policy “will short-change democracy here and sell the country down the river to communism,” as it will mean dealing a death blow to democracy in the Philippines and enslaving the people under the yoke of communism.

July 25:

The President authorized the use of Wallace Field by the Philippines International Fair for agricultural, industrial, and cultural exhibition and recreation parks and the exhibitions will run for six months beginning August 1 and will be open on Saturdays and Sundays. Swings, stides, and other attractions for children will be installed around the big lagoon constructed at a big expense in the center of Wallace Field for the first international fair which came to a close last May. To utilize the semi-permanent buildings constructed around the lagoon, Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda proposed the holding of industrial, agricultural, and cultural exhibits on Saturdays and Sundays to give people coming to Manila on weekends a place to go to and get acquainted with the industrial and agricultural progress of the country. Participation in the exhibitions will be open to department offices, local governments, and private firms which may desire to put up their own booths and pavilions.

The President underwent a second operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. A hospital bulletin said it was to relieve an obstruction which had developed at the lower end of the stomach in the last few days. The doctors said the President came through the operation in good condition and is now resting comfortably and satisfactorily.

July 26:

The President heard mass and had communion in his hospital suite in the morning. He was advised by his physicians to stay quietly in his bed and sleep.

July 27:

According to a dispatch just received from Baltimore, the President is resting well after his second operation for the removal of an obstruction in the stomach and his physicians are satisfied over his condition. The operation gave the President a fitful night but it had relieved him of the obstruction in the stomach of which he had complained.

Malacañan authorized the release of ₱2 million to enable the Bureau of Lands to hasten the subdivision of public agricultural lands for allocation to the landless. The amount will be taken from the balance of the ₱10 million provided for under Republic Act No. 310, known as the Public Land Survey and Subdivision Fund. The amount will finance the work of 26 subdivision survey parties scattered throughout the Philippines. Over 1,700 employees compose the complement of the 26 survey parties. Most of these survey teams are in Mindanao undertaking the survey of several thousand hectares of land.

July 28:

The President is declared to be in fine condition by his physicians 48 hours after his second surgical treatment in spite of the lingering nausea caused by the operation. The President has been given pre-digested food beginning Monday night to supplement his liquid diet. The hospital attendants advised that the President should be kept quiet and well relaxed.

The President expressed the hope that with the signing of the truce in Korea, the big powers would now have a chance to reexamine the whole world problem. He said that while the objective of the UN forces in Korea was: thwarted at tremendous cost, yet “I believe this episode in world history has a humanitarian lesson to teach,” and that the United Nations will eventually fulfill its mission.

The Cabinet approved the outright sale of low-cost houses in Roxas District No. 1 and Quirino District No. 2 located in the government low-cost housing area in Quezon City. The Cabinet action was in accordance with the President’s directive to a special committee to find ways of selling those houses to present occupants as an implementation of

his home-for-the homeless program. The price and conditions of the sale will be threshed out by the Office of Economic Coordination and the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

July 29:

According to the bulletin of the President's condition as released by Joseph Kelly, public relations officer of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the President had a satisfactory night. During the past 12 hours the President has retained milk and other liquids. Previously he had some difficulty in taking pre-digested food. The bulletin further said Doctors William F. Reinhoff, Jr., surgeon; John Eager Howard and Lay Martin, internists; and Agerico B. M. Sison held a consultation late the previous day and visited the President again this morning. They prescribed complete rest and quiet with visitors held to a minimum.

July 30:

The bulletin on the President's condition as announced by Joseph Kelly, public relations officer of Johns Hopkins Hospital, said: . "The President rested well last night and his condition is satisfactory. He had a period of difficulty yesterday when there was some internal bleeding. He received several blood transfusions after which his blood pressure and pulse returned to normal and remained so through the night. His condition this morning is improved."

A separate dispatch received earlier from Gov. Eliseo Quirino explaining how the visit of a former father superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines to the President started the story that the President had suffered serious relapse and was in comatose condition, stated that the President is responding satisfactorily to all medical aid and treatment, and though physically weak and seriously ill, his spirit is far from depressed and he is conscious all the time.

Malacañan named Provincial Fiscal Emmanuel Muñoz investigator to conduct inquiries into irregularities alleged to have been committed by past and present public officials in the province of Negros Occidental. The designation of a prober was made by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque upon the request of Acting Provincial Governor Ramon Torres of Negros Occidental. Secretary Roque instructed Fiscal Munoz to conduct the investigation of the charges "in such places and times as you may deem convenient to all parties concerned, giving them sufficient notice in advance of the date and place of the investigation and seeing to it that the respondents shall be afforded full opportunity to defend themselves personally or by counsel."

July 31:

The President may sit up when he feels like doing it, his physicians told him today after making their morning checkup of his condition. He may even begin taking food by mouth and do away with the tube through which he had been fed since his second operation, if he so desires, he was informed. The President had a nice one on one of the attending physicians when he was asked by the latter how he was feeling. He replied: "I am, feeling well by the look of your face." The President smiled and said nothing when he was informed that Manila and nearby provinces were shocked by false reports sent to the Philippines by unidentified parties that "he was already dead and had been in a coma before that."

Acting by authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque authorized the Director of Lands to cause to be filed in the Court of First Instance of Samar a petition for the settlement and adjudication of titles to the tract of land in the Oquendo Public Lands Subdivision. The land has an area of 2660 hectares. Malacañan's action on this matter is in line with the policy of the administration of "land-for-the-landless."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: August, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

August 1:

According to the latest dispatch received from Gov. Eliseo Quirino from Baltimore, the President called an early conference in the morning of July 31, Baltimore time, with Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison and members of the staff to inquire as to the progress of his cure. The President wanted to know how long it would take him to stay in the hospital. Dr. Sison explained that owing to his two operations, his stay had been prolonged because of his, weakened condition. When Dr. Howard came in later, the President was advised he had improved much from the previous day and everything was going on well. He told the President of the soft nourishment he could take. After the previous day's checkup, Drs. Reinhoff and Howard had all the stomach and intestine tubes removed.

August 2:

Malacañan approved the principal special budget of ₱200,000 as counterpart fund for the implementation of projects in the Philippines to be undertaken under the overall supervision of the expanded technical assistance program of the United Nations. The budget provides allotments for financing the continuation of existing projects started during the fiscal year just ended and of some of those which could not be activated for lack of definite assurance of funds this fiscal year with which to complete them. Among the projects to be continued under this budget are the Bayambang rural urban education center, the Bilharziasis (Schistosomiasis) pilot project, the iron and steel manufacture survey, ceramics, chain store management, malaria control, labor inspection, rice breeding, forest products utilization, use of river water for town supply, and industrial research and community organizations.

The following is a bulletin on the President's condition as released at 10:45 a.m., August 1 (Baltimore time), by Joseph Kelly, public relations officer of Johns Hopkins Hospital. "The President continues to maintain progress toward recovery. He is gaining strength and is in excellent spirits. He is taking liquids and soft food in small quantities every hour. He set up for brief periods yesterday and will be allowed to get out of bed today for short time. Although pleased with gains of the past few days, doctors emphasized that the President must continue to have rest and quiet and to see few if any visitors."

Physicians of the President limited the number of visitors today to keep him quiet as much as possible in order to gain strength while recuperating. The news of his recovery from the second operation brought influx of visitors to the hospital the previous day and the doctors were alarmed that the President might overexert himself: Only one visitor was allowed in the afternoon, because it was a special request on behalf of the Holy Father. As previously arranged, Bishop Lawrence Sheean of Baltimore came to extend personally the blessing of His Holiness. He came as a representative of the Apostolic Delegate in Washington whose health, did not permit him to come in person to Baltimore. The President received the Pope's blessing with deep appreciation and thanked him gratefully for the distinct honor.

August 3:

According to a dispatch received from Baltimore, the President sat up in bed the previous day (Baltimore time). After hearing mass and receiving communion and surrounded by those who came to pray with him, the President thought of returning home. He felt well recuperated, and he called the members of his party and told them to "pack home!" He made everybody rejoice. All medicines had been discontinued and the President is now in a period of observation toward recuperation.

August 4:

Malacañan announced that the President was told by his physicians at Johns Hopkins Hospital that "he had pulled through." The physicians said that there is nothing further to report except that "he is now well." The hospital

authorities announced that they will not issue any more bulletins on the President's condition after they were informed by the President's physicians that there is nothing further to report except that "he is how well." The President received messages and issued directives after the visit of his doctors.

The Cabinet approved the release of ₱400,000 for the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) for the operation of its big steel mill in Iliga, Lanao. The steel mill was established for the production of iron and steel products to implement the government program of expansion of existing industries. This steel mill is a sister project of the National Shipyards in Mariveles, Bataan. The Cabinet also approved the temporary admission into the country of a Japanese expert for the purpose of conducting demonstrations and explanations in the operation of machines to produce rayon and nylon and women's lingerie. The machines have been imported into the country by Atkins Kroll and Co. The exporter of these machines in Japan had agreed to send a technician to teach local operators to operate these machines.

The Finance Department and the General Auditing Office have come to an agreement on the procedure for the refund of income taxes to taxpayers who have refunds due them. The agreement was reached at a meeting in Malacañan presided by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and attended by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola, Acting Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez, and Internal Revenue Collector Saturnino David. It was agreed that it would not be necessary for the Auditor General to go over the income tax returns. The submission by Collector David of the necessary papers will be sufficient for the Auditor General to pass in audit the refund of income taxes that have been overpaid.

August 5:

A dispatch received this day from Baltimore said that the President told Speaker Perez this morning over the overseas telephone that he was "burning to go home." The President is making rapid recovery and fast gaining strength, according to the dispatch. The previous day, he sat up in his chair for quite a long time, and this morning, he got up from bed and walked to his bathroom. The President has made tentative plans for his return to the Philippines which include a visit to Washington and a stop-over in California where a big reception by the West Coast Filipinos awaits him.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque approved the release of ₱74,960 to the Institute of Nutrition of the Department of Health to finance the rice enrichment project of the government to reduce the effects of beriberi and other dietary diseases common among rice-eating countries. Other releases approved by Secretary Roque were: (1) ₱11,040 as supplemental budget of the Vice President's office to pay salaries of emergency employees; (2) ₱6,960 for the operation and maintenance of the Albay Vocational Normal School; (3) ₱4,900 as aid to the municipal district of Bakun, Mt. Province; and (4) additional amount of ₱1,010.67 for medical and dental services of public schools in Lanao.

Secretary Roque also approved the new composition of the efficiency board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo and Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP Chief of Staff. The new board is composed of Commodore Jose V. Andrada, chairman; and Colonels Pelagio A. Cruz, Antonio V. Sayson, Benjamin G. Molina, and Fred Ruiz Castro, members. This new board will serve for a term of one year.

August 6:

The President made several shifts in key positions in the foreign office according to a dispatch from Baltimore. He designated Minister Emilio Abello and Minister Salvador P. Lopez as *ad interim charge d'affairs* of the Philippine Embassy in Washington and as acting permanent delegate to the United Nations in New York City, respectively. The President made the designation after a conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde at his hospital suite in Baltimore. He also designated Urbano Zafra, economic adviser in the Philippine Embassy in Washington, as acting consul general in New York vice Minister Abello.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Roque authorized the Director of Lands to cause the filing of court petitions for the settlement and adjudication of titles to some 18,017 hectares of public lands located in the

provinces of Cagayan, Palawan, and Lanao. These lands had already been surveyed and subdivided for the purpose of helping home-seekers to find lands on which they could settle and for which they could make applications so that the lands might eventually become their own.

Secretary Roque also approved the loan application of the municipality of Guinobatan, Albay, in the amount of ₱35.00 for the construction of its municipal building. The loan will be taken from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

August 7:

The President called Secretary Oscar Castelo to meet him in Washington and asked the Philippine Embassy to report to him pending matters on Filipino veterans problems awaiting further settlement. Through Executive Secretary Roque, the President designated Defense Undersecretary Teodosio Diño to act as Defense Secretary and Justice Under-Secretary Roberto A. Gianzon to act as Justice Secretary while Secretary Castelo is abroad. Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP Chief of Staff, was informed of Diño's designation.

The physicians' prescription for the President until he leaves the hospital is for him to eat, rest, and relax, according to' dispatch sent by Gov. Eliseo Quirino from Baltimore. The physicians desire to see the President redouble his efforts to follow the advice in order to get really well.

The President wired instructions to Executive Secretary Roque to provide all facilities for the immediate return home of the Filipino prisoners of war released by the Reds in the exchange of war prisoners in Korea. He directed that nothing be spared for their safe and speedy return home. He ordered that the released Filipino soldiers be paid their back salaries immediately and that all privileges they are entitled to, be given to them at once. He also ordered their promotions by one rank.

By authority of the President, Secretary Roque approved in the morning the release of ₱7,343.70 for the operation and maintenance of the medical and dental services in the public schools of Pasay City.

August 8:

In an overseas telephone conversation, the President told Vice Presidential candidate Jose Yulo that "he had not come to Baltimore to expose his life in two major operations for nothing except to be fit and strong for the fight ahead at home." The President told his teammate that he is ready to go home.

Gov. Eliseo Quirino said in a dispatch from Baltimore today that the President had given instructions to his aide, Lt Col. Jose Cardenas, to make preparations for his stay in Washington. The President is awaiting word from his physicians as to when to leave the hospital. He had made such rapid progress that he may depart from Baltimore sooner than he had been expecting.

The President was glad to note the favorable reaction in the United States for the revision of the Bell Trade Act, according to another dispatch wired to Malacañan by Governor Quirino. It is to be recalled in this connection that as early as March 16, 1953, President Eisenhower wrote President Quirino that the United States Government was ready "to give prompt and sympathetic consideration to any specific proposals for the revision of the present trade agreement which the Philippine Government may wish to advance." President Quirino is also awaiting the arrival in the United States of Secretary Oscar Castelo to discuss the unsettled veterans problems affecting the relations between the United States and the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, by authority of the President, approved the release of ₱16,800,000 for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of national and provincial roads and bridges throughout the country. This amount will be taken from the Highways Special Fund.

Secretary Roque and AFP Chief of Staff Calixto Duque had a long conference in Malacañan mapping out the speedy transfer of the released Filipino prisoners of war in accordance with the President's order to mobilize all government facilities for the care and speedy return of the released POWs. After the conference they announced that two army transport planes carrying a complete medical evacuation team will fly to Tokyo on August 10 to bring home the released Filipino prisoners of war. Maj. Gen. Duque said that he had already ordered the liaison officer in Tokyo to release the back salaries of the released POWs.

August 9:

The President proclaimed August 19 national holiday in honor of President Manuel L. Quezon's birthday. The President also proclaimed September 14 to 20 National Mental Health Week, according to a dispatch from Baltimore received at Malacañan. The President walked out of his bedroom this morning and sat for some time in the adjoining room talking with his physicians and the members of his party, the dispatch also said. The President dictated messages to his secretary and told him to acknowledge the goodwill messages that had accumulated.

Malacañan announced the release of more funds for public improvements. Acting on authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque released to the Bureau of Public Works the sum of ₱2,164,000 covering the supplemental special budget No. 1 of the Bureau. The amount will be used for the maintenance, improvement, or construction of interprovincial and coast-to-coast roads, or for the maintenance and improvement of roads subject to unusually heavy traffic. The sum is chargeable against the Highways Special Fund. Its release had been recommended by Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo.

Malacañan also announced that steps had already been taken to investigate the reported breaking up of a Nacionalista rally in Dansalan City in which a Nacionalista leader had been allegedly mauled by provincial guards. Executive Secretary Roque said that he had already wired instructions to Lanao Governor Datu Mandangan Dimakuta to investigate the reported charges involving provincial guards in the case. Malacañan's action is independent of the investigations ordered by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff.

August 10:

The President has overseas telephone conversations with Senators Quintin Paredes, Vicente Madrigal, and Jose Avelino to get the latest political developments. The previous day the President had a long conversation with Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo and Speaker Eugenio Perez.

Malacañan authorized the Director of Lands to institute court petitions to facilitate the settlement and adjudication of titles to public lands to implement President Quirino's policy of "land for the landless." The lands involved are those of the Oquendo public lands subdivision in Samar with an area of 2,153.3323 hectares and the Pinamalayan public lands subdivisions in Mindoro Oriental with an area of 420.5490 hectares. Survey and subdivision of these lands had been ordered with a view to helping homeseekers find lands on which they could settle and for which they could file applications so that the lands might eventually become their own. Early settlement of land titles is necessary to protect *bona fide* applicants who had been reported to be constantly harassing the settlers.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque also approved the principal budget of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the amount of ₱100,000 for the restocking of breeding stations and stockfarms and the management and maintenance of additional stock, including the purchase of breeding animals.

Governor Mandangan Dimakuta and Dansalan Mayor Disumending Dianalan came to Malacañan to report to Secretary Roque that there was no mauling as reported but a fight between two persons at the August 6 Nacionalista rally in Dansalan City. The fight was between Filipinas Sampingan, a Nacionalista speaker at the rally, and a man from the crowd who threw a bottle at Sampingan because of Sampingan's vitriolic attacks against the administration.

August 11:

The President told newsmen in a press conference that he is in Baltimore not to make noise but to get cured. As an unofficial visitor, he said, he does not like the Americans to think he is stumping politically in the United States. "I will leave that until I reach home grounds," he told reporters.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque approved in the morning the principal special budget of the Bureau of Mines for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954 allotting the amount of ₱175,100 for expenses in connection with mineral land survey, valuation, assay, and metallurgical tests. Chargeable against the trust fund constituted under Republic Act No. 906, approval of the budget was recommended by Agricultural Secretary Placido L. Mapa.

The Cabinet approved the Philippine participation in the conference of the World Health Organization Original Committee for Western Pacific to be held in Tokyo, Japan, beginning September 28, 1953. The Philippine delegation will be composed of Dr. Regino Padua, Undersecretary of Health; Dr. Rufino Abriol, Director of Quarantine; and Marciano Angeles, Administrative Officer of the Department of Health.

Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa reported to the Cabinet that as a result of the contract entered into between the Booz, Allen, and Hamilton management firm and the Bureau of Lands, the Bureau will soon be in a position to issue from 7,200 to 60,000 land patents a year to thousands of landless people who have taken advantage of the President's policy of giving land to the landless.

August 12:

The President is scheduled to be in Manila the first week of September, according to the dispatch received from Gov. Eliseo Quirino in Baltimore. The President is scheduled to leave Johns Hopkins Hospital on August 15 after delivering his 58th monthly radio chat there. Then he will proceed to Washington, where he expects to stay until August 21, when he will fly to San Francisco where a big reception is awaiting him there. The President will leave San Francisco on August 26 for Honolulu, where he expects to stay a few days before flying to Manila. The dates on the schedule will depend, of course, upon flying time of planes of the Philippine Air Lines.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, by authority of the President, instructed the Director of Lands to file petitions with the courts of first instance in the provinces where public lands earmarked for distribution to *bona fide* applicants are located, for the purpose of establishing once and for all the titles to these lands. The lands in question are those of the Aurora Public Lands Subdivision in Zamboanga del Sur with an area of 10,800.8178 hectares; the Peñablanca Public Lands Subdivision in Cagayan with an area of 811.2212 hectares; the Cordon Burnay Public Land Subdivision in Mt. Province consisting of 267.2815 hectares; and the Mayayan Public Land Subdivision, also in Mt. Province, consisting of 98.7782 hectares. This latest Malacañan directive to the Bureau of Lands brings to more than 35,000 the aggregate area of various parcels of public lands located in different sections of the country whose titles had been ordered determined and awarded to deserving land applicants with the least possible delay.

Acting on authority of the President, Secretary Roque also released the sum of ₱1,362,000 as supplemental special budget No. 1, as modified, of the Bureau of Hospitals for the fiscal year 1953, as aid for the operation and maintenance of hospitals in various provinces, cities, and municipalities in areas stricken by typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic actions during the calendar years 1951 and 1952. This sum is taken from the lump sum appropriation of ₱2 million. Secretary Roque also released the sum of ₱150,000 covering the principal special budget of the Bureau of Hospitals for the fiscal year 1953.

August 14:

Dr. John Howard and Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison made a thorough examination of the President in the morning and found him strong and well enough to leave Johns Hopkins Hospital the next day as he expects to do so. Dr. William Reinhoff, Jr., his surgeon, who came later, was all smiles when he greeted the President. "I told you he will get well," Dr. Reinhoff said to persons around the President, "and he is well now, looking ten years younger," he added.

The President has been receiving visitors since he was able to get out of bed. He dictated to his assistant private secretary, Juanito Gella, his radio chat which will be broadcast in Manila at 7 p.m. the next day over all Philippine radio stations. The President has turned down invitations to appear before the New York Chamber of Commerce and before Filipino communities in different places in California for lack of time. He told the Filipinos in California to adjust their program and receptions and to converge at San Francisco so that he could meet them all.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque designated Fr. Felanio Raymundo, one of the most active guerrilla chaplains during the war, as chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board, vice General Guillermo Francisco, who had returned to his old job as Malacañan adviser on police matters. Fr. Raymundo took his oath of office immediately in the morning before Executive Secretary Roque. Secretary Roque also designated Mariano Villanueva, provincial board member of Cavite, as acting governor of the province, vice Gov. Dominador M. Camerino, who had filed a vacation leave of absence. Villanueva will assume office as acting governor on August 16.

The President, through Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, signed Administrative Order No. 212, creating the National Heroes Day committee to take charge of the celebration of National Heroes Day in the Philippines on Sunday, August 30. The committee is headed by Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo.

August 15:

Preparations for the President's visit to Washington were taken up in the morning with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde and Minister Emilio Abello, *charge d'affairs* of the Philippine Embassy in Washington. The President is all set to leave Johns Hopkins Hospitals at 10 p.m., Manila time. He will proceed to Washington by car and stay at the Shoreham Hotel.

The President had his 57th monthly radio chat tape-recorded at his suite in Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The tape was flown to San Francisco, California, where it was beamed to Manila at 7 p.m., Manila time, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and the Radio Corporation of America. The radio chat, the shortest so far delivered by the President, was broadcast in Manila by all local radio stations. In his 57th radio chat, the President spoke of the "prolonged, grueling, precarious, most risky" confinement he underwent at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The whole ordeal, he said, has produced in him "a deeper sense of devotion to my country and a greater feeling of dedication to the permanent interests of my people, friends and foes alike." He said he has determined to dedicate "this new vigor—this new life—with unswerving purpose and increased devotion to the welfare of our country and our people to whom I have unselfishly and freely given myself in my long years of public service."—(See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 3319, for the full text of the radio chat.)

August 16:

Malacañan announced the issuance of Executive Order No. 609, reducing by 50 per cent the 1952 taxes on all real property located in the province of Camarines Sur, on condition that all the unpaid taxes and penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes shall be paid on or before August 31, 1953. This executive order was issued as a measure to alleviate the financial conditions of Camarines Sur as a result of the destruction suffered in past typhoons.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque alerted all the government agencies to be ready to render immediate help to all provinces that might have been damaged by typhoon "Nina". He made the directive to the Philippine National Red Cross and the Social Welfare Administration which are coordinators of the various government relief agencies.

August 17:

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, appointed Montano A. Tejam, senior economist in the Finance Department, as acting chairman of the Tariff Commission; and Eleuterio Capapas, Deputy Collector of Customs for the port of Manila, and Cesar Z. Lanuza, economic counselor in the Foreign Affairs Department, as members of the commission. The appointments were in implementation of Republic Act No. 911 passed during the last regular session of Congress, providing for the creation of a Tariff Commission to study ways and means of

revising the country's obsolete and antiquated tariff laws. Members of the Commission shall hold office during good behavior unless sooner removed in accordance with law.

August 18:

Inspired by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's report to the United States Congress listing seven achievements of the Quirino Administration towards Philippines progress, the Cabinet turned its full attention during its meeting to the implementation of the administration's program of social amelioration and improvement of the living conditions in the rural areas. The Cabinet discussed the suggestions of President Eisenhower in his report on equitable land distribution and improvement in the rural areas.

President Eisenhower in his semi-annual report to the United States Congress on the U. S. foreign assistant program listed the following as the principal achievements of the Quirino administration:

- (1) A start in the direction of needed government "economic and administrative improvements";
- (2) Material increase in "capabilities" of the Philippines' Navy;
- (3) Virtual self-sufficiency in rice and corn production;
- (4) Organization of 14 new rural banks and numerous farm credit co-operatives;
- (5) Mineral and coal surveys which have revealed "numerous" commercially exploitable new deposits;
- (6) Initiation of a \$5,000,000 peso-industrial-guarantee program; and
- (7) Classification of 200,000 acres of public land for future settlement.

The Cabinet also approved the entry as temporary visitors of several Japanese technicians for various local industries in order to step up the country's industrialization program. All the Japanese experts coming into the country had previously been screened by the Philippines intelligence agencies and their records have also been checked carefully by the Philippine Mission in Tokyo. All of them are to stay in the country as temporary visitors, ranging from three to six months, to teach us the various know-how.

In a message on the occasion of the 75th birthday anniversary of President Manuel L. Quezon, President Quirino said that the great leader's birthday "is an excellent occasion to recall the virtues of freedom and political discipline that found ample nourishment in the period to which he gave the imprint of his character and leadership."

The President, through Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, gave a check in the sum of ₱1,000 to the Philippine Tuberculosis Society to start off its 1953 national fund and educational drive. The Vice President also gave a check in the sum of ₱500 to the 1953 tuberculosis fund campaign. The ceremony starting the drive took place in the Malacañan social hall in the evening with Vice President Fernando Lopez delivering a speech in the absence of the President.

August 21:

The Philippine National Red Cross and the Social Welfare Administration were alerted by Executive Secretary Roque to rush relief to typhoon victims in the northern provinces which were hard hit by the typhoon *Philis*, the third to hit the country in the last few days. The Secretary of Public Works was also directed by Secretary Roque to take all the necessary precautions for the continuity of transportation and communications. This means immediate repair of roads and highways and temporary bridges which have been washed away.

Acting on authority of the President, Executive Secretary Roque sustained the action of the provincial board of Cotabato in disapproving the ordinance passed by the municipal council of Dulawan imposing a school tax. The disapproval was based on a previous ruling of the Secretary of Justice on a similar ordinance passed by the municipal council of Buluan, Cotabato, imposing an annual tax of ₱1 to be spent for the construction and maintenance of public schools and for the scholarship of deserving students of the municipality.

Malacañan announced the designation of Jose Cavan as acting chairman of the Board of Examiners for Mechanical Engineering, vice Marciano Angeles whose terms as chairman of the said board expired recently.

August 24:

The President released the amount of ₱2,613,000 for salary differentials corresponding to the fiscal year 1954 of teachers and other school personnel whose salaries were adjusted effective July 1, 1952, beginning of fiscal year 1953. The amount is chargeable against the appropriation of ₱2,800,000 for contingent expenses including adjustment of salaries of teachers. Between 12,000 and 15,000 school teachers and school personnel will be benefited by this release.

The President also signed Executive Order No. 610, amending Executive Order No. 592. The new executive order extends the time from May 31, 1953, as set forth in Executive Order No. 592, to August 31, 1953, within which the province of Masbate is to pay its tax liabilities together with penalties corresponding to 1951 and previous years and the remaining 50 per cent of the taxes, as a condition for remitting the 50 per cent of the 1952 taxes on all real property in Masbate.

Malacañan announced that a comprehensive survey of classifications and wages of approximately 45,000 Philippine government employees will be undertaken sometime late this month. This survey will be carried out by an American firm of business management consultants under the direction of the Budget Commission and with the sponsorship of the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration (formerly MSA) and the Philippine Council for United

States Aid (PHILCUSA). The FOA will bear the dollar cost of the project while the PHILCUSA-FOA peso counterpart funds will provide transportation and living expenses for the members of the survey team while they are in the Philippines. Although the contract with Louis J. Krueger and Associates of San Francisco, California, calls for a thorough going study of civil service classification and wages, it does not contemplate the abolition of existing positions or the creation of new ones. Neither does it contemplate a reorganization of the government.

August 25:

The President's contribution of ₱1,000 to the Community Chest fund drive was handed by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to Marcos Roces, chairman of the fund campaign, at a simple ceremony in Malacañan. On behalf of the President, Secretary Roque congratulated the Community Chest for the good work it is doing.

The Cabinet discussed ways and means of implementing further the already working policies of the administration, along rural improvement. They took stock of what the administration has accomplished by way of improving the living conditions of the people in the rural areas, and decided to step up the work of each department of the government concerned in both the long-range and the short-range program of economic development of the government.

August 27:

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque" administered the oath of office to Abelardo Imperial of Albay as acting mayor of Legaspi City, succeeding Marcial Rañola who had resigned to run for Congress for the third district of Albay under the Liberal Party banner.

August 28:

President Quirino is now in good health and can carry on the campaign, not in a wheelchair, Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison told newspapermen upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport in the afternoon. Dr. Sison said that his coming back to Manila ahead of the President is proof that the President is healthy enough to allow his chief personal physician to return to Manila ahead of him in order to attend to urgent business at the Philippine General Hospital. Asked by reporters if the President could sustain the strain of campaigning for reelection, Sison said: "Why not? If he could sustain the strain of two major operations, I do not see why he cannot sustain the strain of campaigning."

August 29:

Filipino prisoners of war who had just returned from Korea called at Malacañan in the morning to pay their respects. Through their spokesman, Sgt. Adolfo J. Fajando, they pledged anew their loyalty to democracy by continuing their fight against communism in their native land "so that everyone will be afforded an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of peaceful living." Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, who received the war heroes on behalf of the President, congratulated every member of the group for having successfully returned to their homeland to keep up the fight against communism here.

Malacañan announced that President Quirino left San Francisco at 6 p.m., August 29, San Francisco time.

Malacañan also issued the following message of the President on National Heroes Day: "It is important to remember that our heroes were men of flesh and blood, and that we live, as their memories live, because we are all together part of a living tradition which will survive succeeding generations including our own. I dare say new heroes will keep coming after our time according as we as a people keep the capacity to respond to the challenge peculiar to each epoch, by cherishing and living those virtues that do not change in the process of time—by loving truth, freedom, and justice for all men here and everywhere."

August 30:

Upon instructions from the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque authorized the release of ₱150,000 for the purchase of machinery and for the maintenance of operation of a pilot plant for the manufacture of wall-boards and roofing materials from coconut husks. The pilot plant could also use other materials like sugarcane baggasse and sawdust for experimental production of commercial size boards. The plant will be operated by the Institute of Science and Technology.

The President and his party arrived in Honolulu at 6:45 p.m. aboard PAL plane DC-B *Legaspi*. The President was welcomed at the airport by the Filipino community in Honolulu and the officialdom headed by Admiral Stump. The President proceeded to the Surf Rider Hotel at Waikiki beach, where he will stay during his brief stop-over in Honolulu.

August 31:

Malacañan denied Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson's claim that the order to use Manila policemen as census takers come from the Executive Office. On the other hand, Dr. Leon Ma. Gonzales, director of the Bureau of Census and Statistics, admitted having requested all mayors of chartered cities and towns to help in making up-to-date the latest estimate of the population of the country. Director Gonzales said that this request was made because of lack of personnel and available funds to carry out the work of population survey.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: September, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

September 1:

Latest dispatches received at Malacañan from Honolulu, Hawaii, said the President was resting comfortably taking full advantage of the Hawaiian climate to recuperate more fully before returning home.

The Cabinet decided to carry out a nationwide transportation survey with a view of preparing plans for the improvement of the transportation system of the country. The survey will cover road, railway, marine, and air transportation. It will be undertaken by the National Economic Council, the country's highest advisory body on economic development, as part of its plan of activities and in connection with its present work of preparing a countrywide program of development. The Cabinet authorized the acting director of NEC, National Power Corporation Manager Filemon Rodriguez, to make representations with the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid (PHILCUSA) and the Foreign Operations Administration (formerly the MSA) to the end that sufficient counterpart funds and technical assistance may be provided and made available to the NEC for the purpose of carrying out the projected survey.

September 2:

The Cabinet approved the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources to accept the scholarship offered by the Italian Government to a Filipino agricultural expert to study the rice culture in Italy. The expense in this scholarship will be borne by the Italian Government and partly by the recipient. The Agriculture Department informed the Cabinet that the modern technique and scientific know-how in rice production in Italy has accounted for that country's being third place among leading rice producers in the world. The Italian technique and scientific know-how could be introduced in the Philippines.

Malacañan took a direct hand to check the widespread and malicious circulation of pornographic literature and exhibition of indecent pictures and burlesques shows as it issued a circular directing all provincial governors and city mayors to take immediate legal steps to curtail the sale and display of these obnoxious materials. The move was sparked by an appeal from the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines for the government to impose drastic penal measures against those who violate the law banning the printing, publication, importation, sale, and display of obscene literature.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, by authority of the President, approved the release of ₱198,000 for the repair, maintenance, and dredging of ports, piers, and wharves. The amount will be allocated from the maintenance portion of the Port Works Fund, Act No. 3592, as amended.

September 4:

The President signed Proclamation No. 407, declaring the 15th day of September of every year as Philippine Medicine Day. In setting aside a Philippine medicine day, the President said that it is necessary that the masses realize the importance of availing themselves of the services of the medical profession, the mission of which is to safeguard, maintain, and promote the health of the people. The proclamation was signed by the President in Honolulu upon the recommendation of Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., in response to a resolution passed by the Council of the Philippine, Medical Association urging the observance of medicine day.

September 6:

As he was leaving Honolulu for the Philippines, the President paid tribute to the memory of General Jonathan Wainwright "whose death is deeply mourned by the Filipino people." Gen. Wainwright, the President said, won the esteem of the Filipino people "by his brilliant and courageous defense of Bataan and Corrigidor as Commander of

the Joint Forces of the Philippines and the United States . . . Forged by war and common sacrifice, the friendship and special relations existing today between the Philippines and the United States will long endure,” the President said.

The President and his party left Honolulu at 2:44 p.m., Sunday, September 6 (Manila time) aboard the Philippine Airlines plane *Legaspi*. The President was in the pink of condition, and scoffs at opposition claims against his ability to wage a strenuous political campaign. He said that his health is excellent to stand a rigorous political campaign. After all, he pointed out, the campaign does not depend on muscles of the legs, but on the mind and the heart. The President said that the opposition is more confused than ever now and they cannot fight alone. He added, “This coalition is confusion.”

The PAL plane *Legaspi* carrying the Presidential Party made a brief stop-over at Wake Island. The President got off the plane for airing at the airport where he stayed for 90 minutes.

The three-day celebration of welcome for President Quirino’s return to the Philippines after a confinement in Johns Hopkins Hospital for two stomach ulcer operations started off at 7 in the evening with a welcome radio program broadcast by all radio stations at the reception room of the Executive Office. The eight welcome speakers who each delivered a five-minute speech were headed by Speaker Eugenio Perez and LP Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Julo. The other speakers were Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, Senator Geronima T. Pecson, Senator Camilo Osias, Representative Pascual Espinosa, Aurelio Intertas, and Sergio Loyola.

September 7:

The President landed at Guam, airport at 7 a. m., Manila time, and was welcomed by Guam civil and military officials headed by Governor Elvidge and Philippine Consul Bartolome Umayam and representatives of Filipino groups. In an address to Filipinos at the airport, the President counseled them always to remain true Filipinos wherever they may be and to think and act in a manner that shall give credit to their country and people. The President and his party later motored to Governor Elvidge’s residence for lunch. The President and his party took off from Guam at 10:20 a.m., Manila time, and arrived at the Manila International Airport at 4:26 p.m.

The love and affection of the Filipino people for their President was unmistakably demonstrated when some 500,000 men and women jam-packed the Manila International Airport and another 500,000 lined the streets from the airport to the Palace to give President Quirino a royal and enthusiastic welcome never before accorded to any returning Chief Executive. The President who returned to his homeland after two months and 11 days, a healthy man after undergoing two stomach ulcer operations at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, was so touched by the warmth and magnitude of the reception that his voice choked several times as he spoke extemporaneously to the milling multitude that filled the airport to overflowing.

As the Presidential plane drew to a halt in front of the improvised platform, the President peered through the plane’s window and waved his hands to the multitude which had been anxiously waiting for the President’s arrival since 1 p.m. The President was the first to emerge from the plane, waving his hat, and the crowd shouted, “Mabuhay, President Quirino.” The President stood at attention as battery of the Armed Forces of the Philippines fired a 21-gun salute. Then he walked directly to the speaker’s platform amidst the rending shouts of *Mabuhay* by the people.

After the singing of the *Te Deum* at the improvised altar at the left of the platform, Labor Secretary Jose Figueras introduced the Chief Executive. The President’s extemporaneous speech which lasted for only 12 minutes was interrupted several times by applause. In his speech, the President expressed “the deepest gratitude I now feel because of this huge demonstration which has brought us together here in this spot with friendship, goodwill, and kindness.” The President said that when he left, he was not very much worried about his health, but that he was more worried about the health of the nation, for he left the Philippines, still stirring with local partisan conflict. He said that, to him, the day of his return is “a day of resurrection” for he had been reported as dead. He said that as a result of the difficulties, the vicissitudes, and ordeals he had to go through, something transpired in his heart and soul, a new resolve “to so conduct myself that the democracy which we have established here shall continue to exist, and to struggle hard to the last drop of our blood to preserve such institution which I know will be the perpetual

source of our happiness, prosperity, and glory.”(See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3830-3832, for the full text of the President’s extemporaneous speech.)

September 8:

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting which lasted for an hour and a half at his office in the Executive Building. It was the first meeting of the Cabinet he presided over in four months and the first held since his return from the United States. The Cabinet decided on the immediate release of funds for essential public works authorized under the Public Works Act, Republic Act No. 920, to avoid unnecessary delay in the construction and repair of urgent projects. The President directed that all essential public works projects be started immediately. The amount of public works funds involved is ₱32,000,000. The Cabinet also decided on the immediate release of relief funds for the reconstruction and repair of school houses and buildings that were damaged by the typhoons. This involves around ₱6 million which is provided for in Republic Act No. 869, setting aside funds for school buildings that were destroyed by typhoons.

Before the Cabinet meeting, the President had a lengthy conference with Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Felino Neri and Executive Secretary Marciano Roque. The President took up with Neri the matter of the revision of the Bell Trade Act and the composition of the Philippine delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations which takes place about the middle of this month. The President also saw Speaker Eugenio Perez, Sen. Macario Peralta, Sen. Pablo Angeles David, Rep. Ferdinand Marcos, Rep. Enrique Medina, and Rep. Emilio Espinosa of Masbate.

Up to late in the evening, the President received the different delegations which had failed to see him in the morning. All the delegations assured the President of an overwhelming victory for the Liberal Party in their respective provinces. Governor Ramon Torres of Negros Occidental headed a delegation of 27 mayors of his province to pledge to the President that the Liberal Party will carry an overwhelming majority in Negros in the forthcoming elections. The President told the various delegations that he will make a campaign in the provinces.

September 9:

The President sent messages of felicitations to former President Sergio Osmeña and Senator Quintin Paredes on the occasion of their birthday anniversaries this day. Said the President’s message to former President Osmeña: “My warmest felicitations and best wishes on your 75th birthday. Your valuable contribution to our people’s freedom and well-being is now an integral part of our cherished inheritance as a nation, and anything short of an entire people’s homage and gratitude on this occasion would reflect on the glory of your name. God bless you and keep you.” The Chief Executive expressed the wish for “a most happy birthday and the blessings of continued strength and health in the service of the nation” for Senator Paredes.

After a long conference held aboard the yacht *Apo* with Speaker Perez, Jose Yulo, Senator Vicente Madrigal, and Jose Avelino, the President created three Liberal Party teams to fan out in a three-pronged drive throughout the country preparatory to the holding of the nationwide stumping tour. The three teams will be headed respectively by Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, Jose Avelino, and Senator Camilo Osias.

Earlier in the morning, the President conferred lengthily with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque at Malacañan over pending state matters. Carrying with him bundles of important documents, the President boarded his car about 10 a.m. and motored to the yacht *Apo* anchored at Pier 5. The President asked to be excused for the time being from numerous delegations seeking to see him, because of his desire to clear his desk of pending state matters before he leaves for an intensified tour of the provinces.

September 10:

The President administered the oath of office to Labor Undersecretary Aurelio Quitariano as Acting Secretary of Labor. The induction ceremony took place on board the yacht *Apo* shortly after Secretary Jose Figueras had submitted his resignation to the President to run for Senator in the Liberal Party ticket in the coming elections.

In the morning, the President received numerous callers on board the yacht where he had gone the day before in order that he could concentrate work on pending state papers. Among the callers were Senator Quintin Paredes accompanied by his son, Governor Lucas Paredes, and former Senator Jose Ha. Veloso accompanied by Ex-Senator Jose Avelino, Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, Ex-Senator Salipada Pendatun, and labor leaders.

September 11:

Harry A. Brenn, new chief of the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA formerly MSA), and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, new JUSMAG chief, made their first official call on the President at Malacañan in the morning. They were accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. During the call, Ambassador Spruance said that Brenn and Acting Secretary Placido L. Mapa would make a good team by way of accelerating the implementation of the development program under the Quirino-Foster agreement. In turn the President assured them that there would not be any bottlenecks with Mapa as Agriculture Secretary and chairman of the PHILCUSA at the same time. General Cannon made a verbal report to the President on his findings regarding the state of Philippine defenses. The General had been visiting military installations in the country since his recent arrival here.

President Quirino received a friendly visit from former President Sergio Osmeña at the Palace at 10:30 a.m. The visit which lasted about 12 minutes was highlighted by pleasantries and exchange of wishes for continued good health. Ex-President Osmeña was accompanied by his son Ramon and his son-in-law, Dr. Elpidio Valencia. When Don Sergio entered the study room, where President Quirino had been waiting for him, the Chief Executive stood up and walked to meet the former President. They embraced each other. Don Sergio said: "Usted esta mejor ahora." President Quirino replied: "Usted tambien."

September 12:

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque approved Philippine participation in the 4th meeting of the Working Party on Rice Breeding and in the meeting of the Third Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, both to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Juan P. Torres of the Bureau of Industry was designated to represent the Philippines at the meeting on rice to be held on September 21-27, and Hilario Pilapil, manager of the PRISCO home industries, to represent the country to the meeting on small industries to be held on September 21-28, 1953.

The President designated Br. Amando M. Dalisay as Acting Undersecretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the absence of Undersecretary Jose S. Camus who is on an extended leave abroad. Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa recommended Doctor Dalisay's designation, which is in addition to his present work as executive secretary of the PHILCUSA, in order to coordinate and expedite the implementation of the projects assigned to the various bureaus and offices under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The President directed former Labor Secretary Jose Figueras, chairman of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, to execute immediately the sale of the low-cost houses erected by the Government in the Roxas District No. 1 and the Quirino District No. 2, to the present occupants, since the Cabinet had already approved the sale of those houses at prices fixed by the committee created by the President.

September 13:

The President authorized the extension for the sixth time of the barter trade agreements between the Philippines and Japan in their present forms for four months. The barter trade agreements with Japan, which have so far benefitted the country with an average annual collection of \$12 million since 1950, are due to expire at the end of this month. In his memorandum on the barter trade agreements to the Cabinet, Acting Foreign Secretary Felino Neri pointed out that since the agreements were originally negotiated with SCAP and continued in force with Japan upon her assumption of full sovereignty, the balance of trade has wholly been favorable to the Philippines. He said that up to the present the Philippines has received a total remittance of \$28.6 million, excluding the pending collection of \$8.2 million.

September 14:

The President issued three executive orders fixing the ceiling price of locally packed Chase and Sanborn coffee and reducing the ceiling prices previously set for imported Homasote wallboard and galvanized roofing nails. Executive Order No. 615 fixes the prices of Chase and Sanborn coffee at ₱2.95 a pound, wholesale, and at ₱3.25 a pound, retail. Executive Order No. 613 fixes the prices of imported galvanized roofing nails, size 2 ½" by 6' to 7 BWG, and size 2" by 8' BWG, at ₱1.15 a kilo, retail. Executive Order No. 614 fixes the ceiling price of imported Homasote wallboard, size 15/32" by 4' by 8' at ₱12.50 a sheet, wholesale, and at ₱13.65 a sheet, retail. The prices for the imported construction materials include the 17 per cent special excise tax on foreign exchange, 7 per cent sales tax, and 1 per cent municipal tax. These orders take effect three days after September 12.

Malacañan announced the release of ₱25,766 for the purpose of adjusting the salaries of dentists and pharmacists employed in the Department of Health. The amount will be taken from the lump sum of ₱100,000 authorized in Republic Act No. 914 which provides for the salary increases of dentists and pharmacists in the Department of Health receiving less than ₱2,400 each a year.

The President administered the oath of office to Luis F. Bersamin as Acting Provincial Governor of Abra, vice Governor Lucas Paredes who is candidate for the lone congressional district of Abra. Almost at the same time, shortly before noon, Dr. Amando M. Dalisay took the oath of office as Acting Undersecretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the Council of State room, before Executive Secretary Marciano Roque.

September 15:

The President met the Council of State at 11:30 a.m., to make a report on the latest developments in the negotiations for the revision of the trade relations between the Philippines and the United States. The trade agreement between the two countries enters a new phase next year. The President told the Council that the Philippines has a very good chance of having our proposals for the revision of the Bell Trade Act considered seriously by the United States. He said the Philippine proposals for revision of the PI-US trade relations have gone through the diplomatic channels. The Philippine proposal had been submitted to the State Department through the American Embassy in Manila. The President pointed out that the U. S. must have considered the necessity of amending or changing the Bell Trade Act because it created a commission of 17 members to study and report within one year on the foreign trade policies of the United States.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President authorized the opening of all the needed extension classes in the public schools all over the country, despite the limited appropriation by Congress. The Department of Education had requested for authority to 'open 3,196 additional extension classes. With the amount of ₱3 million set aside in the general appropriation act for the fiscal year 1954, only 1,304 extension classes become actually available. The Education Department estimates that another 3,196 extension classes will be needed to accommodate all children of school age in the public schools. The funds to finance the additional extension classes will be taken from the possible savings in the appropriation for the Department of Education and from savings of the Government.

The President signed Proclamation No. 469, designating the second week of September of each year as Education Week. The proclamation says that during Education Week vital information about the objectives, work, and accomplishments of the public and private schools may be disseminated among the people. It was about the second week of September, 1898, that the first public schools were established in the Philippines after the American occupation; hence, September was chosen for the observance of Education Week.

The President issued Executive Orders Nos. 616 and 617, fixing the ceiling price of Vienna Sausage of the Stahl-Meyer and the Anglo brands, and reducing the 1952 taxes on all real property in Romblon, respectively. The President fixed ₱. 70 as the ceiling price of the 4-oz. can of Stahl-Meyer Vienna sausage and that of the Anglo brand at ₱.66 retailers' price, upon the recommendation of the Price Administration Board.

The President also signed Executive Order No. 618, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources to transfer to the Irrigation Service Unit of the Department all irrigation pump systems for rehabilitation and

immediate sale to farmers. In ordering the transfer, the President said that the national program for increased food production can best be carried out with adequate irrigation facilities, as experience has amply shown. To facilitate the sale and distribution of the irrigation pumps system, the President authorized Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa to enter into agreement with the FOA and PHILCUSA relative to the financing the rehabilitation of the pumps.

At 10 a.m. the President received Frank Satzel, general manager of the Associated Press, and Joseph Alsop, New York Herald-Tribune columnist and correspondent. The two American newspapermen are visiting the Philippines on their way to Japan, Korea, and Formosa. They talked with the President for almost an hour.

The President delivered his 59th monthly chat, the first time in three months he delivered his radio chat here since he went to Johns Hopkins Hospital where he underwent two stomach operations. For the first time, his chat was televised by DZAQ-TV for release on the inauguration of the TV station. The President's study room was filled to overflowing with people—Cabinet members, high government officials, friends and admirers—that many of them had to stay in the reception room for lack of accommodation. Foreign newspapermen—John M. Mecklin, correspondent of the *Time-Life International*; Michael Rongier, staff photographer of *Life* magazine; Leonard Slater, Los Angeles bureau chief of *Newsweek*; and Harris Sitompoel, editor of *Merdeka* of Indonesia, were also present. They were introduced to the President and later had a talk with him.

Mincing no words, the President in his radio chat charged the Opposition with forming an unholy combination to satisfy their thirst for power. There “is nothing necessarily evil in power,” he observed in speaking of love for power. What is to be feared is the dubious uses made of it, he said. J The country has reason to be’ apprehensive over the arbitrary way the Opposition leaders use their power in imposing their will upon their ranks without previous consultation, he said. Then he added: “And what about the violence the oppositionists have employed in several instances to impose party discipline and the threat of bloodshed in case things do not turn out the way they except in the coming elections?” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3832-3834, for the full text of the radio chat.)

September 16:

The President met PHILCUSA and FOA officials at Malacañan to get a comprehensive report on what has been accomplished in the country's development program as envisaged in the Quirino-Foster agreement PHILCUSA and FOA officials reported that accomplishment during the past two years have been satisfactory and that the goal and objectives of the Quirino-Foster agreement are being met on schedule. They said the benefits of the program are reaching the farm and barrio and are not merely confined to the city and big town. They expressed faith in the soundness of the program and in the certainty of its success provided adequate support is given by the Philippine Government. The President was satisfied with the report of what has been accomplished and he assured the officials that he will give unrelenting attention and full support to the execution of the program. Present at the meeting presided by the President were Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa, chairman of the PHILCUSA; Dr. Harry A. Brenn, Chief of the FOA; Acting Undersecretary of Agriculture Amando M. Dalisay, executive director of the PHILCUSA; Edward Prentice, deputy chief of the FOA; and former Speaker Jose Yulo, in his capacity as former PHILCUSA chairman.

Malacañan announced that the National Power Corporation has extended the government's electrification service to Laguna towns and is poised to electrify other communities bordering Laguna de Bay out of the power output of the Caliraya-Lumot hydroelectric plant. Acting Executive Director Filemon C. Rodriguez of the National Economic Council, in his report to Malacañan as general manager of the NPC, said the extension of electrification to the Bay towns is ‘in line with the over-all power development program designed “to promote greater utilization of electricity for the homes and the various cottage industries in rural areas” to hasten their economic development. It is expected that with the availability of electricity, the famous wood curving industry in Paete, one of the communities now electrified by the NPC, will be developed and expanded to give additional income to the people. Other home industries in the area now served with electricity are also expected to be developed.

Following the breakfast conference with PHILCUSA and FOA officials, the President received Ambassador Antonio. Gullon Gomez who called to pay his respects and to present the President an elaborately prepared certificate naming the Chief Executive as honorary citizen of the City of Villafranca de Oria, Province of Gupuzcoa, Spain. The President also received Minister Frank S. Gibbs of England who delivered a personal message from Queen Elizabeth thanking him for sending a Philippine representative to her coronation. The British minister also conveyed to the President the Queen's best wishes for the continued progress of the Republic.

September 17:

Malacañan sent a relief party consisting of two physicians, a nurse, and two helpers to Calayan, Cagayan, where an epidemic of pneumonia had been reported. Executive Secretary Marciano Roque made the arrangement with the Department of Health upon the request from Governor Jose P. Carag of Cagayan for aid to check the epidemic.

The President assured public school teachers that his administration would continue to advance the cause of education in this country. The assurance was given to a large delegation of members of the faculty and administration staff of the Philippine Normal College which called at Malacañan at noon. Headed by PNC President Macario Naval, the delegation submitted a petition requesting the early implementation of the new law raising the minimum salaries of teachers in the collegiate level from ₱200 to ₱245 a month.

September 18:

The President approved the release of ₱971,620 for aids to provincial hospitals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954. The amount is chargeable against the lump-sum appropriation of ₱1 million "for expenses in connection with the operation and maintenance of public hospitals or dispensaries established in specially organized provinces . . ." The President also issued Executive Order No. 620, creating the new municipality of Victoria in Mindoro Oriental, and Proclamations Nos. 410 and 411, reserving for communal pasture purposes certain parcel of land in Biñan, Laguna, and parcels of land in Bacuit and Taytay, Palawan, for land settlement and development purposes. These parcels of land covered by the two proclamations have an aggregate area of about 22,139 hectares.

The President was presented with a gift consisting of a sterling silver cigarette box from the Youth Association of Asia as a token of its appreciation for his interest and encouragement to youth and student movement in this part of the world. The gift was delivered by a delegation from the National Student's Association of the Philippines (NASAP) which called, at Malacañan in the afternoon. With the gift was a tribute from the association composed of student and youth leaders from some 10 countries in Asia for President Quirino's concern for the welfare of the youth in Asia. The letter signed by YAA President Toshio Takahashi says: "We have followed closely your concern in helping the undertaking of the youth of your country and the nobility of such a gesture is inspiring."

September 19:

The President saved thousands of families from being forcibly ejected from their homes when he authorized the expropriation by the Quezon City government of the privately-owned residential estates in Barrios Tatalon, Sociego, and Santol. Women members of the large delegation representing some 3,000 families affected by a court ejection order, wept with joy as the President gave Quezon City Mayor Ignacio Diaz authority to expropriate the estates in order to stay the court order and keep thousands from being driven from the homes where they have been living for many years.

The President approved a special budget of the Bureau of Public Works allotting ₱1,140,000 for the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems administered by the National Government. The allotted sum in the special budget is chargeable against the estimated collection of ₱1,219,400 that will be realized from the operation of the irrigation systems.

September 20:

A crowd of more than 100,000 lined both sides of Naga's main streets to cheer President Quirino as he entered the town to fulfill a promise to attend the feast day of the Virgin of Peñafrancia. Heading the welcomers was Archbishop Pedro Santos of the diocese of Nueva Caceres who said in a brief remarks broadcast from the altar of the Chapel of Peñafrancia that the President is a devout Catholic with great faith in the miraculous powers of the Virgin of Peñafrancia. He said that the Bicolanos welcome the President to Naga with open hearts because they are grateful to him for the many benefits the Bicol regions have received from the Quirino administration. In turn, the President said he came to Naga to fulfill a pledge he had made at his sickbed in Johns Hopkins Hospital that as soon as he gets well, he would attend the feast day of the Virgin, of Peñafrancia. The President stayed in the church for over an hour to hear the *Te Deum* and mass. After the mass, he went to the convent to meet the Catholic prelates. He stayed and chatted with the prelates for only an hour.

The President left Manila shortly after 8 a.m. aboard the Presidential plane *Laong Laan*. He was accompanied by Senator Vicente Madrigal, former Senator Teodoro de Vera, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, Acting Defense Secretary Teodosio Diño, and others. He arrived at Naga airport at 9:15 a.m. and was met at the airport by Gov. Juan Trivino, Naga City Mayor Anastacio Trilla, Governor Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon, Rep. Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte, and IP political leaders of Bicolandia. The President conferred with provincial officials of Bicolandia who converged at Naga to meet him, at the home of former Representative Sebastian Moll. Speaking extemporaneously at former Rep. Moll's home, the President said that he would not spoil the symbolic mission that impelled him to come to Naga by delivering a political speech. He said, it was not his intention in coming to Naga to hold any public meeting, but that he cannot escape the responsibility of saying "hello" to his constituency in that part of the country and assure them that he has returned to serve further both "the interests of this country and that of our children." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3834-3836, for the full text of the President's extemporaneous speech.)

The President said at the Naga airport when he was returning to Manila that he is more confident than ever before that he would carry the Bicol region in the coming elections. He disclosed that he was able to thresh out the differences among LP factions in the region, particularly in Camarines Sur and Catanduanes. He said he would go to any place where his appearance would be demanded in the course of the political campaign. He said he is already familiar with the problems of the provinces and the barrios and has been taking steps since long before to solve them. The President took off for Manila at 4 p.m.

September 21:

The President ordered Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez and the Philippine National Red Cross to rush immediate relief to hundreds of families rendered homeless by the ₱6-million fire which gutted nine blocks of residential and commercial buildings in Lucena, Quezon, early in the morning. Upon being informed of the blaze, he immediately contacted Mrs. Perez by telephone and instructed her to extend prompt assistance to the fire victims.

At noon, the President had a long conference with U. S. Ambassador Raymund A. Spruance during which they discussed various phases of Philippine-American relations. Present at the conference was Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Felino Neri. No details of the conference were announced.

September 22:

The President vehemently denounced the opposition party for its negative attitude of doing nothing positive to contribute to the strengthening of the country but to destroy, demolish, and annul what has been done, by the administration in order to have political capital to pursue their determination "to grab power." He spoke extemporaneously before a wildly cheering group of some 1,000 members of the National Federation of Tenants and Farmers who trooped to the Malacañan social hall to congratulate the President on his recovery and to pledge to him anew their vote in the coming elections. Moises San Pedro, president of the association, presented a resolution urging the President not to stop the employment of laborers within the 45-day prohibition period of the Public Works Act, and other resolutions petitioning the expropriation of several parcels of land in various parts of the Philippines. In another resolution, the association seeks the transfer of the Landed Estate Division from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Labor. In a strong, ringing voice, the President vigorously assailed the opposition party for inserting a clause in the Public Works Act which inhibits the President from releasing public

works, funds within 45 days before the elections. He said, "I denounce that group and it is for you to consider its acts in the coming elections." This remark was met by a thunderous applause from the crowd which shouted, "Mabuhay, President Quirino!"

The Cabinet at its meeting turned full attention to finding ways and means of continuing with the services of around 50,000 public Works laborers who will be thrown out of jobs for 45 days beginning September 26 this year. No solution was in sight, but the President directed the Cabinet to exhaust all possibilities. When asked again by the President if in his opinion colleges and universities in the United States funds could be released under section 5 of the Public Works Act, Acting Justice Secretary Roberto A. Gianzon said the law is clear on this point—that it was the intention of the Nacionalista-controlled Senate to disallow the release of funds for public works and the employment of workers during the 45 days before elections.

The President administered the oath of office to Public Schools Director Benito Pangilinan as Acting Undersecretary of Education. The oath-taking ceremony was held in the Cabinet room in the presence of all members of the Cabinet. Director Pangilinan's designation as acting undersecretary was deemed necessary in view of the absence from the country of Education Secretary Cecilio Putong who is now on an observation tour of various.

The Philippine delegation to the 4th session of the Western Pacific Regional Conference of the World Health Organization held in Tokyo from September 3 to September 8 called at Malacañan to report on the conference following their return to the Philippines. The members of the delegation, headed by Health Undersecretary Regino Padua, reported verbally to the President on their observations of different health institutions in various Japanese cities.

Italian Minister Ferdinand Wiel and Thai Minister Chitti Sucharitakul were received separately by the President. The two diplomats came to Malacañan to pay their respect.

September 23:

In a brief extemporaneous remarks delivered before a 2,000-man delegation from Batangas who called at Malacañan at noon to pledge their support, the President warned against placing this country in "untried hands with an adventurous spirit" and to consider the future of the children and the happiness of the nation. He urged the nation's voters to go to the polls, on election day and elect men of experience who had already shown positive accomplishments and who would continue promoting the interest and welfare of the people. The large crowd that packed the spacious social hall applauded enthusiastically as the President explained that the coming election is not just a simple question of choosing a President. The choice, the President said, is going to determine whether or not this administration would continue with the good work it has started with greater and bigger strength. Headed by Col. Adriano H. Aro, the delegation which came from 18 towns, from the 2nd and 3rd congressional districts of Batangas thanked the President for his efforts to obtain additional benefits from U. S. for unrecognized guerrillas.

September 24:

In the course of his talk with a 300-man delegation composed of ranking officers and men of the United Guerilla Veterans Legion of the Philippines who called at Malacañan at noon, the President declared he was running for reelection not only because he wanted to finish his program of economic development designed to secure the stability of this country but also because of his desire to complete the rehabilitation of people whose lives had been dislocated by the last war. He explained that the restoration of guerrillas to normal life has been one of the main objectives of his administration. To this end, he said, the Government has been continuously negotiating with the U. S. Government for concessions for deserving Filipino guerrillas. Regarding the distribution of public lands to the landless, the President pointed out it has always been his policy to give preference to guerrilla applicants in recognition of the services they had rendered their country during the war. He recalled that of the 25,000 hectares he recently earmarked for settlement in Rizal province, 10,000 hectares have been specifically set aside for veterans.

The President signed the appointments of Mariano Pineda as *ad interim*. Securities and Exchange Commissioner and Vicente Fragante as acting chairman of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation. The President also signed

Proclamations Nos. 413 and 412, reserving for the use of the National Power Corporation certain parcels of public land situated in the South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, and for municipal site purpose certain parcels of private domain of the government in Panabo, Davao.

September 25:

The President and Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo held a last minute huddle for an hour in Malacañan in the evening in an effort to find a remedy to avoid throwing out of work more than 50,000 public works laborers. Lorenzo reported that the Department of Public Works had exhausted all remedies but no solution could be found because the public works act passed by the Nacionalista-controlled Senate prohibits the release of funds during the 45 days prior to the election. He reported to the President that more than 50,000 laborers were to be laid off at the close of office-hours this day. He said his department had rushed as much as possible contracts of public works to beat the deadline, but because of the delay in the receipt of official copies of Republic Acts Nos. 917 and 920 which were received by his department only last July, there was not enough time to place more of the projects under contract. Moreover, Lorenzo pointed out, projects of ₱10,000 or less comprising 95 per cent of the projects are not practical for awarding to private contractors; so these are done by the administration.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque said that the lease of the tower to DZAQ-TV station was never taken up by the Cabinet as alleged by Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson in a press statement published in the morning papers.

September 26:

The President suspended Bataan Governor Adelmo Q. Camacho upon the recommendation of the Integrity Board because of pending administrative charges filed against him for dishonesty and oppression. Camacho has also been accused before the Court of First Instance of Bataan in an information charging him of estafa through falsification of public document based on the same facts out of which he was charged administratively for dishonesty. The Integrity Board denied Camacho's motion to dismiss the administrative charges as the Board had determined "a *prima facie* showing of guilt" on his part. His suspension shall last until after the final disposition of the administrative charges against him.

The President laid the entire blame and responsibility for the sad plight of more than 50,000 public works laborers who were thrown out of work beginning this day upon the Nacionalistas. He told hundreds of laborers with their wives and children who met him at the approach to Pasig, Rizal, in the evening that there was nothing he could do to alleviate their suffering because the law as passed by the-Nacionalistas is clear on the stoppage of release of funds for public works during the 45 days before elections. The President said that he had discussed with his Cabinet, with legal luminaries of the Liberal Party like Senator Quintin Paredes, Speaker Jose Yulo, and Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo if there was any way to alleviate the plight of the laborers, but they found no solution to the problem. The only remedy, the President said, is to change the Nacionalistas in the Senate with Liberals.

The President and his teammate, former Speaker Jose Yulo, led the battery of LP big guns in Pasig, Rizal, in the evening. Because of inclement weather, the rally was moved from the plaza in front of the church to the big cockpit which was filled to overflowing. In his fighting form once more after a serious illness, the President blazed away at the opposition for seeking American intervention in local political affairs, thus paving the way for the nullification of hard-won freedom. He scored the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer for being "a puppet of puppets." He impressed on the people that Ramon Magsaysay is the "candidate of the American people." He also lambasted American political writers who make flying visits of two or three days to the Philippines and claim to be the ultimate reference on Philippine conditions. "It is clear that I am the candidate of the Filipino people," the President said in loud aggressive voice, "while he (Magsaysay) is the candidate of the American people."

September 28:

Malacañan authorized the Director of Lands to file in the Court of First Instance of Misamis Occidental a petition for the settlement and adjudication of titles to 3,578.3021 hectares of land in the Baliangao Public Lands

Subdivision in Misamis Occidental. This brings a total of 38,578 hectares of land ordered adjudicated and earmarked to bonafide applicants in connection with the land-for-the-landless program of the administration.

The President received in the morning John Paul Ross, acting, resident representative in the Philippines of the Technical Assistance Board of the United Nations, who called at Malacañan to deliver a message from Madam Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, new President of the UN General Assembly, congratulating him for his complete recovery. Ross, in his first call on the President since his assignment here some two months ago, also submitted a general report on the status of the UN technical assistance program in the Philippines.

About 1 p.m. the President received Gen. Ho Ying-ching of Nationalist China now on an unofficial visit in Manila to undergo an eye operation.

Malacañan released the report of former Justice Domingo Imperial who conducted the investigation of Education Secretary Cecilio Putong, Public Schools Director Benito Pangilinan, and Assistant Director Venancio Trinidad in connection with the religious instruction in public schools. Justice Imperial found the three school officials "innocent of the charges of obstructing, defeating, sabotaging, and undermining the constitutional and statutory provisions in the public schools." In an administrative order, President Quirino concurred in the findings of the investigator and exonerated the three school officials of the administrative charges against them.

September 29:

The President was informed during the Cabinet meeting that all school children who applied for admission have been accommodated with the opening of new extension classes by order of the President at the last Cabinet meeting. Acting Undersecretary of Education Benito Pangilinan said that upon arrangement with Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, 2,000 more new extension classes are now ready for opening. Previously, 1,304 extension classes were opened with about ₱3 million appropriated in the budget of the Department of Education. The President directed Secretary Pangilinan that should there still be need for more new classes he should not hesitate to open them immediately.

The Cabinet failed again to find a solution to the problem of releasing public works funds to pay 50,000 public works laborers who had been laid off by the operation of the Nacionalista-inserted rider in the Public Works Act. Acting Justice Secretary Roberto Gianzon informed the Cabinet that to continue the employment of laborers during the 45-day period, even if the project was begun prior to that time, would be to violate the express prohibition against spending money for public works projects during the stated period, contrary to the claim of the Nacionalistas that old laborers in public works need not be laid off.

During the Cabinet meeting the President completed the memberships of several government corporations by filling existing vacancies. He appointed Faustino Aguilar *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation for another term of three years expiring on September 29, 1956. He also appointed Jose Lingad *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the National Land Settlement and Development Corporation (LASEDECO), vice Juan L. Ledesma who resigned. Lingad will serve Ledesma's unexpired term of office which ends on October 27, 1955. The President reappointed two members of the board of directors of the Philippine Sugar Institute, whose terms of office expired. They were Manuel Elizale and Ernesto Santos whose terms of office as *ad interim* members of the board of directors expire on July 30, 1956.

The President was presented the first bag of chemical fertilizer produced in the government-owned Maria Cristina fertilizer plant in Iligan City, Mindanao. General Manager Filemon C. Rodriguez of the National Power Corporation made the formal presentation this day, five days before the scheduled formal inauguration by the President of the fertilizer plant and its twin Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant. The presentation was made in the presence of Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, chairman of the board of directors of the NPC, and other members of the Cabinet.

The President received in the morning Walter Hendl, conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, who arrived in Manila three weeks ago to conduct a series of concerts here on the invitation of the Arts Council of the Philippines. Hendl was accompanied to Malacañan by Miss Anita Kane, chamber chairman of the Arts Council, and FEU

President Teodoro Evangelista, in his capacity as chairman of Hendl concerts here. In response to the President's query as to his impressions on music development in the Philippines, Hendl said he found the Filipinos "a very appreciative audience" and very responsive to new things. He emphasized the need for a national theater in the Philippines to provide the people with facilities for music education. The President in turn informed the American conductor that the government is encouraging music lovers in the country by extending to them all possible assistance. He disclosed a plan to construct a national theater on Isaac Peral with the help of the government.

September 30:

The President signed Administrative Order No. 216, creating a committee to coordinate the planning of the Marikina River multiple-purpose development project for electric power, flood control, irrigation, and water supply. The committee is composed of Filemon C. Rodriguez, executive director of the National Economic Council, as chairman; and Hilario S. Clemente, chief hydroelectric engineer of the Bureau of Public Works; Gaudencio R. Gruel, chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water District; and Filemon Zablan, assistant general manager of the National Power Corporation, as members.

Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuo Okasaki, accompanied by Toru Nakagawa, head of the Japanese Mission in Manila, and Eiji Wajima, director of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Tokyo Office of Foreign Affairs, called at Malacañan before 11 a.m. to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila in the course of a two-week observation tour of Southeast Asia. Closer relations between the Philippines and Japan were pledged by President Quirino and Minister Okasaki at their half-hour conference held at the Palace. They agreed that the Filipino and the Japanese peoples should cooperate with one another in the reconstruction of their devastated countries to make them strong to resist and protect themselves against a common enemy. Okasaki congratulated the President on his efforts to industrialize this country, and expressed the readiness of Japan to exchange machinery that the Philippines might need with the raw materials produced here.

The President pledged all-out aid for Filipino disabled veterans who had fought here and across the seas in defense of democracy. The pledge was made at a party held in Malacañan to entertain disabled veterans of the Korean war and war prisoners who had just been released by the Reds. The President said that the administration will never fail to come to the aid of the young men who have fought for their country and to preserve democracy here and abroad. He assured his full support to a plan of establishing household industries or factories whereby the veterans could utilize their skill even if they have only one hand or one leg. He said that he has set aside 10,000 hectares of land in Rizal province for veterans who would like to go into farming. Disabled veterans who could not work in the farm could utilize their skill through the aid of equipment and tools that science has evolved, said the President.

The President spoke extemporaneously at a convocation held in the evening at the University of the East. In a voice ringing with emotion, he said that he was "going to resist with the last drop of my blood any attempt" of those who will invite foreign intervention in the present political contest in the Philippines. He pledged that the administration would not commit fraud and terrorism in the coming elections and warned that he would meet force with force in the event of revolution. He assailed again the opposition leaders' request for U. S. intervention, and added: "I shall die fighting for our dignity." The President's speech was interrupted no less than ten times by thunderous applause. In introducing the Chief Executive to some 15,000 students and faculty members of the University, President Francisco Dalupan said that he had invited the Chief Executive in order to enlighten the university population on some of the issues of the day. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3836-3842, for full text of the President extemporaneous speech.)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: October, 1953

October 1:

The President spent most of his time in the morning in conference with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque to clear his desk of pressing state matters preparatory to his scheduled departure for the South. During the conference, the President signed the appointment of Ricardo Gonzales Lloret and Florencio Bauso as members of the ACCFA board of directors. He also appointed former Gov. Jose Lingad of Pampanga as *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the LASEDECO, vice Juan L. Ledesma, for his unexpired term ending on October 23, 1955. The President also reappointed Rafael G. Gonzalez as chairman of the board of examiners for marine engineers for another term of three years expiring on August 21, 1956. He also reappointed Manuel Elizalde and Ernesto Santos as *ad interim* members of the board of directors of the Philippine Sugar Institute for another term of three years expiring on July 30, 1956.

The President boarded the presidential plane *Laong Laan*, and took off for Tagbilaran, Bohol, about 2:45 p.m. after brief conferences with some Cabinet secretaries who received last-minute instructions at the Philippine Airforce Base at Nichols Field. With him on the plane were Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff; Col. Benito Ebuen, chief of the airforce; former Labor Secretary Jose Figueras; and aides. The *Laong Loan* arrived at Tagbilaran about 4:45 p.m. The President was met at the airport by about 15,000 people. From the airport where he was given a 21-gun salute, he proceeded to the Cathedral for the *Te Deum*. The streets were lined by some 70,000 cheering people all the way from the airport to the church.

Before a cheering crowd of about 50,000 gathered at the Bohol Trade School ground, the President lashed at the Nacionalista leaders seeking American intervention in the national elections. People of Bohol who glorified Dagohoy's first fight for the people's sovereignty will not allow a foreign power to take away from us the sovereignty for which our people fought and died, the President said. Intervention means an admission of immaturity, and those who are seeking intervention are those who kiss hands to win a fight, he pointed out adding, "they revealed their puppetry complex." He appealed to the people to give the administration a resounding victory in November so that it could continue the various industrialization projects which are nearing completion.

October 2:

The President conferred with Liberal Party leaders of Bohol the whole morning before leaving for Dumaguete at 1 p.m. on board the yacht *Apo*. He arrived at Dumaguete at 4:30 p.m. and was joined by Vice Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo and senatorial candidates Geronima T. Pecson, Salipada Pendatun, and Jacinto Borja, who all came from Antique. The President was met at the pier by Governor Pedro Bandoquillo, top provincial officials, and about 50,000 people. The whole city of Dumaguete, with the whole student population of the Silliman University, turned out to cheer the Liberal Party standard bearers who appeared in two meetings: first, at the campus of the Silliman University; and the second, at the town plaza.

Speaking before the students of Silliman University, the President appealed to all Visayan voters to re-elect him if they want a Visayan president in 1956. He explained that he is running for re-election not because he is "power hungry" but because he wants to continue the economic program formulated under the Quirino-Foster agreement. He pointed out that he has already reached the pinnacle of his political career but he is gambling all that only because he wants to finish the good work we have started of making the country politically, economically, and externally secure.

Speaking before 100,000 people from various municipalities of Negros Oriental at Plaza Quezon, Dumaguete City, in the evening, the President said that the opposition move to secure American intervention in the coming election is unpatriotic and treasonable. He said that it is unpatriotic if not treasonable to sacrifice the dignity of the nation for the election of one candidate." He cited the case of Italy where De Gasperi lost Italian support because of intervention. The President warned the people against entrusting the future of the nation to untried hands which would destroy the progress and prosperity already achieved.

October 3:

The President hammered into the Cagayan de Oro crowd in a meeting held in the evening the issue of intervention by a foreign power in Philippine elections. He charged that opposition leaders are using the bugaboo of frauds in the coming elections to justify their invitation for American intervention in the coming elections. In law, he pointed out, this means the surrender by a state of its sovereignty to another state by allowing it to intervene in its local affairs. It is going backward, giving up the independence that we have fought for and died for, he said. "I assure you, there will never be frauds or terrorism in this election," he pledged. The President was cheered lustily when he launched the issue of intervention as advocated by the opposition leaders. Inclement weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the mammoth crowd that gathered at the town plaza to hear the President.

October 4:

At the formal inauguration of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant at Iligan, Lanao, in the morning, the President paid tribute to Filipino intellect, technology, and initiative. He said that the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant and its sister factory, the Maria Cristina fertilizer plant, are evidence that Filipino intellect, technology, and ingenuity are comparable to any in the world today, if given an equal chance." A centuries old dream is now realized," he said. The President took a dig at the Nacionalista Party for belittling the achievements of the administration along the lines of industrialization and economic development. He said he wished "the man who called me 'economic tontolizer' to come here to swallow his words near the power generation plant at Maria Cristina." He said that with the series of inauguration of basic industries aimed at speeding the country's industrialization program, his administration will present a landmark of achievements, not in empty promises and senseless words. All these, he said, are aimed at making our country strong and stable. In an angry voice, the President said, he will not allow threats of revolution to cow this country or a foreign power to intervene in its domestic affairs. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4280-4283, for the full text of the President's extemporaneous speech.)

The President arrived at Iligan at 9:30 a.m. with LP Vice-Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, Sergio Osmeña, Jr., Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, Senator Geronima T. Pecson, and former Labor Secretary Jose Figueras. A fluvial parade of gaily decorated motorboats met the yacht *Apo* in Iligan Bay. The President inaugurated the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Plant at 10 a.m. and the Maria Cristina fertilizer plant in the afternoon.

October 5:

The President spent the morning in conference with Lanao provincial and Iligan City officials on board the yacht *Apo* docked at Iligan. He left Iligan City for Ozamis City at 2:30 p.m. on the last leg of his six-day tour of Visayan and Mindanao provinces. He arrived at Ozamis City at 4:30 and was met at the pier by the biggest crowd ever seen in that city. A crowd estimated at upwards of 50,000 lined up both sides of the streets from the pier to the town plaza to hear Nacionalista Mayor Angel Medina plead for President Quirino's re-election because of the benefits received by Occidental Misamis and Mindanao as a whole from the administration. The main street of Ozamis City displayed big placards announcing Nacionalista defectors supporting the Quirino-Yulo ticket.

Speaking before a huge crowd at the Osrox park in front of the Ozamis City hall in the evening, the President gave the ominous warning that a Liberal defeat is dangerous to the nation's future generations. The President said that the major governmental problem since independence is economic, and claimed that the pace of Philippine progress under the Liberal administration is unmatched anywhere in the world. He frankly expressed his wish to continue at the helm of the government not so much because he coveted new honors or new privileges, but because he felt that by continuing his program of national action the Philippines could be placed on the right road to happiness and prosperity.

October 6:

The President and the members of his staff took off from Ozamis City for Manila at 9 a.m. aboard the presidential plane *Laong Loan*, while the Yulo party left in a chartered PAL plane for Bacolod to attend a rally in the evening.

Upon arrival in Manila, the President told newspapermen that the enthusiastic and spontaneous receptions by mammoth crowds in the five provinces he had visited “surpassed all my expectations.” He said there is no doubt that those provinces will give the Liberal Party an overwhelming majority in the coming elections. The President looked hale and healthy as he descended the gangplank of the *Laong Laan* which landed at the airport at 11:45 a.m. Asked how he felt after the strenuous six-day trip of continued speeches and conferences, the President said : “I am politically and physically stronger after the trip.”

October 7:

Malacañan issued orders to all authorities concerned to see that terrorism and all violations of the election law wherever and by whomever committed be immediately and vigorously prosecuted irrespective of the party faiths and affiliations of the authors. In the face of complaints from all quarters, particularly from his own Liberal Party headquarters, the President gave instructions that every agency of the law charged with safeguarding the polls and insuring peaceful and orderly elections be set in motion to prevent any possible abuses and excesses in connection with the present campaign such as the alleged use of gangsters and hoodlums and the employment of flying voters.

In the course of a courtesy call at Malacañan at noon of the American lawmakers now on tour of the Asian countries, the President said that his main concern in the coming elections, more important than his personal fortune, is that the elections be conducted in a peaceful and clean manner that will enhance the prestige of Philippine democracy and be a further contribution to the progress and security of the free world. The President later entertained the American congressmen with a luncheon. In the informal conversation on current events in the country, the President took occasion to reassert his stand against foreign intervention in the Philippine domestic affairs as advocated by Nacionalista Senator Jose P. Laurel and others who have gone as far as to seek United Nations supervision. He deplored the effort of some American groups in foisting an “American candidate” in the coming elections. He said that while the Filipino people welcome America’s healthy interest in Philippine welfare, they will not tolerate the slightest interference with purely local affairs, especially in the choice of their public officials.

The spokesman of the congressional group said he does not believe the U.S. Government or the American people desires or has any intention to intervene in the Philippine election and that anybody presuming to speak for them is doing so gratuitously. The congressmen almost unanimously voiced the opinion that regardless of whoever may be elected president in the coming elections, American aid will continue to flow to the Philippines.

October 8:

Malacañan announced the receipt by the President of a note from the American Embassy serving notice on the composition of a United States executive interdepartmental group which is charged with the study of the Philippine government’s proposals for the revision of the trade agreement and the problems relating to it. Known previously as the Executive Committee on Philippine Trade Relations, the newly constituted group is now called the Philippine Trade Agreement Committee. The membership of the committee consists of the Departments of State, Commerce, Agriculture, Interior, Labor, and Treasury, and the Foreign Operations Administration and Tariff Commission. The Embassy note said that the agencies, and not the individuals who represent them, are the members.

After consultation with the Cabinet at noon, the President decided to allow the Japanese government to undertake the salvage work on some 34 sunken vessels in Manila Bay and afterwards sell the scrap iron to local steel mills which are in need of the’ materials for the continued operation of their plants. The President’s decision was prompted by his desire to facilitate the clearing of Manila Bay of sunken vessels which had been constant hazards to navigation since the end of the war. The scrap iron will be sold to local steel mills at 40 per cent below the world market price to encourage and assist in the development of the local steel industry.

The President took a hurried lunch after the Cabinet meeting and drove to the Nichols Airbase to board the presidential plane *Laong Laan* for Vigan, Ilocos Sur, in order to attend the golden jubilee celebration of Mons. Santiago Sancho, archbishop of Nueva Segovia. Upwards of 50,000 packed Plaza Burgos to cheer the President, Ilocos Sur’s favorite son, upon his arrival in Vigan at 3:20 p.m. The President went immediately to the Archbishop’s

Palace to greet Archbishop Santiago Sancho, and shortly afterward, he went to the Cathedral for the *Te Deum*. Then he proceeded to Plaza Burgos with LP senatorial candidates who were with the presidential party to attend the rally. The President hammered the issue of intervention into his townspeople in his speech during the rally. He said this country will never allow any foreign power to intervene in its domestic affairs. He said that the only reason he is running for re-election is to finish his program of development which has brought prosperity to the country.

In the evening, the President gave a dinner in honor of Archbishop Sancho and the visiting Catholic hierarchy at the Syquia mansion. Mons. Sancho, addressing over one hundred people including high prelates in the Catholic hierarchy during the dinner, said he had known the President for the last 30 years and had collaborated with him in the promotion of the welfare of the Ilocos region. He said it would be a pity if the time for the President to finish his gigantic task of building this country into a strong republic would be cut short by the failure to re-elect him. Addressing the gathering, the President in turn paid tribute to the Catholic church for its uplifting the religious and moral life of the Filipinos. He said Ilocandia owes Archbishop Sancho an eternal debt of gratitude for his work in helping the inhabitants through many Catholic schools and religious institutions built by him and through his inspiration.

October 9:

The President unveiled in the morning the historical marker commemorating the founding of Vigan by Salcedo. Later, he inaugurated a two-story moderate-size puericulture center-hospital named after his late wife, Alicia. He told the gathering, mostly women who had been girlhood friends of his wife, that it would have made her very happy to have seen such a building, not because it bears her name but because of the purpose for which it was erected; that is, for the enhancement of public health, especially of the poor. "We used to work together promoting such public welfare services," the President said.

The President signed Proclamations Nos. 414 and 415, declaring the last week of October 1953 as Professional Week, and designating the period from November 15 to December 15, 1953, for the National Fund Campaign of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in places outside Manila, respectively. He also issued Executive Orders Nos. 625 and 626, converting the sitio of Tinago, Davis, Bohol, into an independent barrio under the same name, and fixing the ceiling prices of Japanese sardines respectively. The brand of Japanese sardines affected by the order is the *Winged Wheel*, which, as fixed, will now be sold at P.60 for one oval can and P.28 for one tall round tin at retailer's price.

Malacañan explained that the ban imposed by Executive Order No. 471 (issued by virtue of the powers vested in the President by Republic Act No. 650, known as the Import Control Law) on the entry of textbooks printed abroad had ceased to exist by operation of law, without Presidential action. The statement was issued to clear up a report in a certain sector of the press that Mr. Ramon Ordoeza, president of the Filipino Printers Association, had condemned what he called the lifting of the executive order as unfair, adding that the move exposes printers to losses arising from competition with American publishers. Malacañan explained that after June 30, 1953, when the Import Control Law expired, there is no more law banning the entry of printed textbooks from abroad. Executive Order No. 471 was simply nullified by the operation of law, not repealed. But the Central Bank can still control the foreign exchange needed for the banning of imported textbooks, Malacañan added. Thus, the fear that the unrestricted flow of printed textbooks would ruin the business of local printers is unfounded.

The President arrived in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, with his teammate, former Speaker Jose Yulo, aboard the *Laong Laan* at 4:20 p.m. They were met by provincial officials and Liberal Party leaders with 10,000 people most of them riding in 50 big buses at the airport. No less than 150,000 cheering people lined the four-kilometer road from Bago airport to Laoag to give the President the noisiest and warmest welcome Laoag ever saw. The President went to the Laoag Cathedral for the *Te Deum*, assured that the "solid north" has not been dented by the opposition.

Malacañan announced that the President had issued Proclamation No. 416, calling for a special election to fill the existing vacancy in the office of mayor in Victoria, Tarlac. The election will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 1953, to coincide with the regular national elections. The proclamation was issued because the election for the office of mayor of Victoria held on November 13, 1951, resulted in a failure to elect, as the person who received the

highest number of votes for said office had been declared ineligible to hold office for lack of the required age qualification.

October 10:

At a big rally in the San Fernando (La Union) High School ground in the evening, the President denounced the opposition leaders with attempting to wreck the harmonious relations between the Philippines and the United States by seeking American intervention in our national elections. They want the surrender of sovereignty, he said, just to get American support for their candidate for President. They have made all kinds of threats, like revolution in case of defeat, but the people and the country cannot be cowed, he added. The President arrived at Poro Point at 11 o'clock in the morning. He was met by Governor Juan Carbonell and provincial officials of La Union.

October 11:

The President motored to Bacnotan, La Union, in the morning to look into the progress of the work on the cement factory under construction there. He expressed great satisfaction over the progress of the work. From Bacnotan, the President motored to Agoo, La Union, hometown of his late mother, to formally inaugurate the Doña Gregoria Memorial Hospital erected in honor of the late Gregoria Rivera-Quirino, his mother. The President was assisted in the unveiling of the marker by Mrs. Estefania Verseles and Dr. Tranquilino Elicaño, director, of the Bureau of Hospitals. After the ceremonies, the President addressed the townspeople who attended the inauguration of the hospital. He thanked them for dedicating a hospital to the memory of his mother, and urged them to vote solidly for the Liberal Party in the coming elections to renew their faith and trust in his leadership.

The President motored to Baguio in the afternoon to attend a big rally attended by some 70,000 people, according to the estimate of the Baguio chief of police. Most of the crowd came from the mines and neighboring districts of Baguio. The President told the mammoth crowd the Liberal Party will win this election without resorting to fraud and terrorism. He issued a warning that should the opposition stage a revolution, as they threatened in case of defeat at the polls, he is prepared to meet it with force. The President's speech was interrupted several times by prolonged cheers as he lashed out at the opposition whom he accused of having no program, no platform, except threats of revolution in case of defeat. Rains that started early in the afternoon failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the cheering crowd who used umbrellas and newspapers to protect themselves from getting wet.

October 12:

In a conference held at the Guest House in Baguio shortly before the President boarded the plane for the return trip to Manila, local political LP stalwarts informed the Chief Executive that the party will make a clean sweep of the Mountain Province in November. About 10:30 a.m., the President boarded his car and drove to the Loakan airfield. He arrived at the Nichols Airbase about 11:45 a.m. On hand at the airbase to welcome him were members of the Cabinet.

In the evening, the President entertained at cocktails the members of the Philippine-American Association of Filipinos who studied in the United States. They were honored by the President on the occasion of the celebration of their golden jubilee. The President in his brief remarks during the cocktail party emphatically said that he is not anti-American. "I do not want to be misunderstood as being anti-American or hating America," he pointed out, in view of his public denunciation of efforts of the opposition to seek American intervention in the coming November elections. "But" he added, "I do believe something must be done either by official Washington or the American Embassy here or responsible elements of the United States Government and people to disabuse our mind on the subject." He continued: "I do not think that it is even suspected that we do not believe in America, but certainly and I will tell this in the face of any American public official, we will resist any intervention on the part of the United States government or any other government in our domestic affairs." Explaining the significance of his statement, the President said: "That does not mean that we do not love America. That does not mean that we do not respect America. That does not mean that we do not wish to associate with America, for we cooperate with her, especially in her foreign policies. But America has taught us, especially the first pensionados to the United States, how to appreciate and how to protect our sovereign rights to be free."

October 13:

Acting Agriculture Secretary Placido L. Mapa reported to the Cabinet that 35,000 hectares of public lands were available as of the previous day for agricultural purposes in line with the President's policy of providing land for the landless. In turn, the President directed Mapa to step up the campaign against rats that have been infesting Ala Valley in Cotabato and destroying rice and corn crops. The President also ordered Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez to rush aid to the people of Ala Valley whose rice crops were destroyed by rats.

Col. Wayne E. Richards, visiting commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, called on the President at Malacañan following his recent arrival here from Hongkong in the course of a tour of the Far East. He told the President that the rapid reconstruction of Manila in the brief period of seven years was very amazing. He said he could hardly believe that Manila today was the same devastated city he had seen after Liberation.

The President told provincial treasurers who paid him a courtesy call in the evening to keep the sanctity of the ballot at any cost. He said that he is determined to maintain a clean and free election this November in the interest of upholding the democratic processes in the Philippines. The victory of democracy, he said, is more important than personal or political victory. He exhorted the provincial treasurers to perform their sworn duties in accordance with one law, without fear or favor. He directed them to enforce the election law and to help prosecute all violators of law, irrespective of the political affiliations of the offenders. The provincial treasurers who are in Manila on official business were accompanied to Malacañan by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola.

October 14:

The President appointed 16 prominent officials of various educational, scientific, and cultural agencies as *ad interim* members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization National Commission of the Philippines. Appointed for a term expiring December 31, 1954, were Purita Kalaw-Ledesma of the Art Association of the Philippines, Belen E. Gutierrez of the Philippine Association of University Women, Jesus Tanghal Dera of the National Federation of PTA of the Philippines, Federico Piedad of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents, Concepcion Aguila of the UN Association of the Philippines, Teodoro Evangelista of the UNESCO-Philippine Educational Foundation, Antonio S. Fernando of the Colegio Medico-Farmaceutico de Filipinas, Manuel M. Aycardo, Jr. of the UTOP, Ramon Tapales of the National Music Council of the Philippines, Manuel de Leon of the Movie Producers Association, Luis Montilla of the Bureau of Public Libraries, and Joaquin Maranon of the Institute of Science and Technology. Named to the Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 1953, are Benigno Zamora of the *Pampaaralan Kapisanan sa Wikang Pambansa*, Jorge B. Vargas of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Eufronio M. Alip of the Philippine Historical Society, and Patrocinio Valenzuela of the National Research Council.

The President administered the oaths of office to two new generals, Brig. Gen. Ramon Enriquez, commanding general of the Philippine Army Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, commanding general of the second military area. In his brief remarks after swearing in the two new generals, the President expressed confidence in the armed forces and declared that under no circumstances would he allow the army to be used as a tool for ulterior purposes in the coming elections.

October 15:

The President issued Executive Order No. 629, fixing the ceiling prices of imported textbooks and reducing and setting up new ceiling prices of antibiotics and repealing the ceiling prices for locally manufactured canned pineapples effective five days after October 14, 1953.

The President, in his 60th monthly radio chat broadcast from his study room in Malacañan, accused the opposition of treason before the nation from seeking the intervention of the United States in purely domestic affairs. He charged the opposition with plotting to place the Philippines under foreign rule simply to win an election. He took the occasion to present his party's issues against the Nacionalistas and at the same time gave the opposition a severe

lashing. He laid down the issues clearly: prosperity and sovereignty. He pictured the Nacionalistas as a do-nothing group, without any constructive plans but with many destructive plots. "Their platform is platform," he punned. The language of the opposition spells violence, he said. Its intention is to uproot; its ambition to destroy. (See *Historical papers and Documents*, pp. 4283-4286, for full text of the radio chat.)

The President received a commemorative plaque in the evening from the national executive committee of the Philippine Rural Community Improvement System which sponsored the observance from October 4 to 10 of the first Barrio Improvement Week. The plaque done in silver was handed to the President by Dean Anastacio de Castro, president of the PRUCIS, shortly after the President had delivered his 60th monthly radio, chat. In response to the awarding of the plaque, the President said that the focal point of the various development program now being carried out with accelerated tempo is the barrio and the progressive improvement of the living conditions of the masses. He expressed satisfaction over the generous participation and cooperation extended by the various civic associations during the observance of the first Barrio Improvement Week this month.

October 17:

The President signed Proclamation No. 418, declaring the period from November 29 to December 5, 1953, as Philippine National Science Week and creating a committee to take charge of the observance of the occasion. Designated chairman of the committee is the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The members are the Secretaries of Health and Education, the Administrator of Economic Coordination, the Director of Science and Technology, the President of the National Research Council of the Philippines, the President of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Science Officer of the UNESCO.

Accompanied by Vice-Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo and Senatorial Candidate Camilo Osias, the President landed at Lahug airport, Cebu City, about 4 p.m. The airport reception included a 21-gun salute, fireworks, display, honor guard composed of local military and ROTC units, and a ladies committee formed by a bevy of Cebu beauties. An estimated 20,000 people headed by Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., and Mayor Vicente del Rosario were on hand at the airfield to greet the visiting Chief Executive. From the airport, the President was borne at the head of a long motorcade to the Cebu Cathedral for a *Te Deum*. From the church, the President proceeded to the Capitol site where he inaugurated the Palace of Justice. On his way to the inauguration, the President dropped at the residence of Ex-President Sergio Osmeña for an unscheduled call. Thousands of people lined the streets along the route of the presidential motorcade.

Following the inauguration of the Palace of Justice, the President went to the Avellana High School grounds where he laid the cornerstone of the Interscholastic Stadium. Then he had another conference with school supervisors and PTA federation officers at the Boy Scouts building.

The day's activities were climaxed by a mammoth public rally at Plaza Washington at 8 o'clock in the evening where the President addressed some 100,000 people who thundered "No" when the President asked them if they are willing to sacrifice their sovereignty and freedom by allowing a sovereign power to intervene in Philippine elections. The President addressed the huge crowd for an hour, starting at 11:30 p.m. He lashed out at the opposition for insisting on seeking intervention of America in our elections despite repeated Washington announcement that America will maintain strict neutrality. He was loudly cheered when he declared he would never resort to terrorism or fraud to win an election. He said he would not sacrifice the dignity and honor of our country just to be elected. He said one does not do cheap publicity stunts like jumping over ditches and having haircut under coconut trees to show concern for the masses.

October 18:

The President arrived in Bacolod City about 11 a.m. aboard the *Laong Laan* on the second leg of the projected four-day tour of the Visayan provinces. Surprised by the unusually large crowd estimated at 120,000 people from all over the province who gathered in Bacolod to give him a rousing reception, the President said: "Perhaps many of you came to meet me out of curiosity—to see for yourselves whether it is true I am still alive. Well, I am not only alive but am more determined than ever to continue serving the best interest of our people." After acknowledging cheers

of welcome from an improvised platform, the President was conveyed on a long motorcade to the church for a *Te Deum*. Then the presidential party proceeded to the Bacolod-Murcia milling central where they were served lunch. Like in Cebu, thousands lined the presidential route and cheered as the President passed by.

In the afternoon, the President accompanied by Bacolod City Mayor Felix Amante, concurrently Negros Occidental Governor, motored to the provincial high school stadium to address a meeting of teachers and PTA organizations. Then he proceeded to the public plaza where he addressed a mammoth rally.

The President approved before leaving Cebu City the temporary promotions of five lieutenant colonels of the AFP to full colonels. The promoted officers are Lt. Cols. Salvador Babista, commanding officer of the Malacañan guards; Benjamin Santillan, deputy area commander for constabulary for the 1st military area; Dominador T. Mascardo, deputy area commander for constabulary of the 2nd military area; Rafael Rodriguez, commander of the 4th PC zone (Mindanao); and Cornelio Bondad, commander of the 3rd PC zone (Visayas.) Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff, had strongly recommended to the President the promotion of these deserving officers who have served the armed forces for more than 23 years.

October 19:

Iloilo City gave the President and his team-mate Jose Yulo the noisiest, most colorful, and biggest welcome Iloilo has ever seen since the days of President Quezon. The waterfront was teeming with a sea of people that flowed into Blumentritt street. The yacht *Apo* was met as she entered Iloilo harbor with fluvial parade of gaily decorated tugs and launches. Fireworks from two of the tugs kept alive the skies with explosions. People from all walks of life, mostly labor union members, estimated at upwards 100,000 jammed the waterfront. Plenty of color was lent by numerous flags of labor unions and by red and white buntings endorsing the Quirino-Yulo team. Inspired by the mammoth demonstration and the enthusiasm of the crowd of some 150,000 people who jammed Iloilo's Plaza Sunburst, the President delivered one of his fightingest speeches in the Visayas. He charged the Nacionalista presidential candidate of ingratitude for biting the hand that fed him. The President charged the opposition with no program except plots of revolution in case they lose in the elections. He branded the coalition as a combination of business and politics which had already planned to distribute the high positions like the presidency of the PNB and that of the RFC and other financial institutions of the government to persons who could serve their personal business. He was cheered when he said this is the chance of the people of the Visayas to have a Visayan president after two years and three months by voting Quirino-Yulo. Speaking of the opposition campaign for a change, the President said that if there be a change, it should be for the better.

October 20:

In Iloilo, the Presidential party enplaned for Roxas City about 10 a.m. The President addressed a rally at the Capiz High School grounds upon arrival in Capiz. After lunch at the home of Thomas Ford in Baybay, Capiz, the President enplaned to Tacloban City in the afternoon, accompanied by former Senate President Jose Avelino.

The President arrived in Tacloban about 4:30 aboard the *Laong Laan* on the last lap of his four-day tour of the Visayan provinces. On hand at the airport to give him a warm reception were thousands of people and political leaders headed by Reps. Atilano Cinco and Francisco M. Pajao. Nacionalista Governor Bernardo Torres was also on hand to greet the President. From the airport, the President was taken at the head of a long motorcade to the city church for the *Te Deum*. The President proceeded to the athletic field where thousands of people from all over the province awaited him. In a speech delivered before the public rally at the provincial high school grounds, the President called the opposition "professional wreckers" and "demolition squad." He said that the negative campaign of hate and destruction being waged by his detractors is undermining the name and prestige of this country in the eyes of other nations abroad. He said that his opponents are trying to hoodwink the people by continuously speaking of bloodshed and revolution, going as far as to ask Americans to intervene in the coming elections. He asked: "Do these people want American soldiers to supervise our polls, to be members of the Commission on Elections, or to help them push through the candidacy of my opponent?" He exclaimed: "What infamy! All these are because of a propensity of someone to be the puppet of a foreign power."

October 21:

The President left Tacloban aboard the yacht *Apo* at 5 o'clock in the morning, leaving Senatorial Candidate Avelino behind in his Samar-Leyte bailiwick. No high official or political leader is accompanying the President home except Dr. Victoriano Yamson. Senator Peralta stayed behind in Iloilo, while Jose Yulo and Salipada Pendatun were left behind in Capiz to make town-to-town campaign.

On the return trip to Manila from Tacloban City, the President made a surprise visit on a small isolated coastal village near the southern tip of Masbate Island about noon. The inhabitants of the village were unusually happy for having seen for the first time the President of the Philippines in person. Sitting on the steps of a rickety stairs of one of the nipa snacks in the village, the President inquired into the problems of the locality. As he chatted informally with bare-footed men, women, and children from his insecure position on the cracking steps of the bamboo stairs, some of the menfolk climbed the coconut trees, to get some young coconuts to offer their distinguished visitor. The President stayed in the village about half an hour.

October 22:

The President, summing up his impressions of the southern trip at a press conference aboard the yacht *Apo*, said he is more confident than ever of victory in the coming election. He said that the Magsaysay balloon has been punctured, that the first favorable impressions of the NP standard bearer in the early part of the campaign has worn off, that the people do not fall any more for his built-up political glamour. The President arrived at Manila at 6. p.m. from a political assault against the opposition in the Visayas. On hand at Pier 5 where the *Apo* docked were members of the Cabinet.

In an interview aboard the yacht *Apo* with newsmen who accompanied him in his six-day tour of the Visayas, the President said he had no intention of inviting American newsmen to observe Philippine elections in November but that he would welcome any foreign correspondent who would like to come here to watch how the national elections would be conducted. He explained that he does not have to exert efforts, to convince America or any other country of clean and honest elections here, as clean elections are our goal as a sovereign democratic country and not merely as a means to convince other people. The President's statement denied a *United Press* dispatch datelined in Washington which had reported" that the Philippine Chief Executive would invite a large number of American newsmen to witness the election for the purpose of letting them see for themselves if fraud or coercion will be used at the polls.

At the Palace, the President came upon a delegation of bus drivers and conductors and a group of families of some 200 Huk detainees who had been waiting for them. He first received the drivers and conductors and told them that he would study their case. He counseled them in the meanwhile against taking the law into their hands and against any acts of violence. The group which had been affected by a municipal board resolution banning buses from entering certain areas in Manila for two weeks as an experiment to solve the traffic jam in the city, called to ask the President to lift the ban. After this group had gone, the President received the families of the Huk suspects. He told this second group that he would speed up the disposition of cases against the detainees. He said: "My interest in these cases is not only because I wish to see justice done but also because it is costing the government a lot of money . . . Remember," he added, "I am not doing this as a condition for your supporting me in my candidacy but as a measure of justice."

October 23:

In an extemporaneous one-hour address at a convocation at the Far Eastern University in the evening, the President appealed for an intelligent appraisal of the political issues involved in the coming elections and stressed the need of retaining the Liberal Party in power for the continued prosperity and stability of the country and for the preservation of the freedom and sovereignty of the Filipino people. He warned the youth of the attempt of the opposition to deliver the Philippines to another power and make it a colony again. There is a recurrence of propensity of someone to be a puppet of a power "he cannot fight," the President pointed out. "If those fellows (obviously referring to the Nacionalista leaders who have spoken of force and revolution) are going to threaten revolution, I want to tell you I

am prepared to meet this unthinkable threat not only to our peace and order but to the sovereignty and independence of this Republic we have established through the centuries of struggle, trying to obtain and enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom,” he declared.

The President arrived at the FEU at 5:30 p.m. He was met and welcomed by the faculty headed by FEU President Teodoro Evangelista, and afterwards accorded military honors. After the military reception, the President was escorted to the stage where he was introduced by the university president. President Evangelista paid a high tribute to the President for his “enviable record of courage, vision, and patriotism” he showed in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the late President Roxas. Evangelista recalled that the President “stoutly refused to yield an inch of Philippine’ territory that he thought was not absolutely necessary for the establishment of such bases in the Philippines.”

October 24:

The President made a whirlwind stumping tour of Bulacan province by making thrusts at the towns of Plaridel, Baliuag, San Miguel, and San Ildefonso. Leaving Malacañan at 9:30 a.m. and accompanied by Senator Quintin Paredes, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, and Dr. Antonio Villarama, the President arrived in Plaridel about 10:45. The presidential motorcade consisting of about 20 cars was enthusiastically met at strategic points by sympathizers of the President, Liberal Party leaders, and school children who waved paper flags. From Plaridel, the motorcade proceeded to Baliuag where it was met by a big delegation at the outskirts of the town. The President was requested to alight from his car and ride with a couple of town belles in a convertible, with its top pulled down.

After attending the *Te Deum* in the Baliuag church, the President made an unscheduled speech at the town plaza. From Baliuag, he proceeded to San Miguel where he arrived at 11:55 a.m. to the chiming of church bells and the explosions of firecrackers. After the *Te Deum*, the President went to the bandstand in the churchyard to address a big rally. After enumerating the achievements of his administration as a result of the total economic mobilization program, the President said that unlike the opposition party which is only at the stage of promising, the Liberal Party has already done concrete achievements for the people of the Philippines. He asked: “When November 10 comes, will you allow this trend of accomplishments to continue by retaining the party in power? Will you allow new untried hands which are ready to sell this country to a foreign power to take over?” The crowd roared a resounding “No.”

From San Miguel, the presidential party motored to San Ildefonso where luncheon was served at the home of Mayor Jaime V. Iletto. At 4:15 p.m., the President addressed a big meeting of San Ildefonso tenants held at the school grounds. The President told the Buenavista estate tenants that he came to San Ildefonso to reaffirm to them the justice which the government has pledged to them by giving them the titles of the lands for which they had already paid. He said that in pledging anew the promise of the government to give them their land titles, he had brought with him some 108 copies of deeds of sales for those pieces of land which had been already processed. He said that the instruments of sale could not yet be given to them until some technicality of law could be cleared. He invited the tenants to come up the stage to examine the papers on the deeds of sale. The tenants responded with a resounding applause. The President then counseled the people to vote honestly and defeat those with dark hearts and souls. He warned them that the opposition party is planning to stage a sham revolution if he and his running mate get elected in order to prevent their proclamation, and so that the Senate head would act as President in the meanwhile. The President counseled the people not to heed such acts of violence. Among the other speakers who addressed the tenants were Judge Antonio Quirino, Senator Quintin Paredes, Senator Geronima Pecson, former Senator Salipada Pendatun, and Dr. Victoriano Yamson. Assistant Executive Secretary Jose P. de Leon translated the speeches of the President in Baliuag, San Miguel, and San Ildefonso into Tagalog.

October 25:

The President left Malacañan at 9:30 a.m. and motored to San Pedro Tunasan, then to Biñan, Santa Rosa, Canlubang, Bay, Calauan, Victoria, Pila, Sta. Cruz, and finally to San Pablo, Laguna. He addressed rallies in Biñan, Los Baños, Santa Cruz, and San Pablo. He raised no new issues, but he hammered again on American intervention and the threat of the opposition to lead a revolution in the event that they lose in the election. He likened the

oppositionists to *anay* and *bukbuk* (termites) for trying to undermine the country's sovereignty and freedom by urging American intervention in purely domestic affairs. Before the crowd which welcomed him at Biñan, the President appealed to the people to cross party lines in choosing their candidates. He said, that the people are entitled to choose those who are in a better position to serve them by virtue of their experience and preparation. Later in his speech before school teachers and officials of Laguna, in a meeting held at the chemistry building of the Los Baños agricultural college, the President enumerated reasons why he should be retained in office. He said he must be allowed to continue in order that he would be able to pursue his total economic mobilization program. The President laid the cornerstone for the proposed one-million-peso forestry products laboratory in Los Baños. In Santa Cruz, he was not able to continue his address at the rally due to rain. He addressed another rally in San Pablo before returning to Manila about midnight.

October 26:

The President woke up early feeling very well rested after a few hours' sleep, despite his rigorous tour of Laguna the previous day. Following a hurried breakfast, he summoned Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who brought to him a pile of pending state papers. He worked on the pending papers until 11 a.m. Upon the recommendation of Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda and Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Felino Neri, he authorized the continuation of Philippine membership for another term of three years, beginning June 1953, in the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as the designation of Minister Emilio Abello and Capt. Emilio Asistores as representative and alternate representative, respectively, to this Council which has its seat at Montreal, Canada.

October 27:

The President appointed Col. Pelagio A. Cruz as *ad interim* brigadier general of the armed forces of the Philippines and designated him as commanding general of the Philippine Air Force vice Col. Benito N. Ebu. Gen. Cruz had been chief of the airforce for three years but was relieved in 1951 when he was assigned to GHQ and later sent to the Command and General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth. On his return from the U.S., he was made head of the Command and General Staff School in Fort McKinley, a position he held until his present reappointment as airforce chief.

At noon, the President issued Administrative Order No. 219, directing the different executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government to avoid direct import of non-essential goods, pursuant to the policy of the government to promote the country's economic development, to protect and encourage local industries, and to conserve dollar resources in order to facilitate the importation of capital goods. The President also issued Administrative Order No. 220, creating the Philippine Committee on Economic Matters, in response to the desire of the UN Economic and Social Council to maintain close contact with member governments.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President directed the Secretary of Justice to speed up the screening of detainees at Camp Crame. He wanted that those detainees against whom no charges have been filed be investigated immediately so that they could be released if there is no justification for their further detention. The President also directed all law enforcement agencies of the government to be on the alert for any provocative acts that will disturb the peaceful and orderly conduct of our national elections. This directive was issued in the face of reports made to him by Speaker Perez and widely publicized in the press that the Nacionalistas are forming *bandillos*, "task forces," "couriers," and "reserves," to be stationed at polling places.

The Cabinet approved the request of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the allocation of Plaza Militar to the Philippine Navy for use as site for the quarters of Philippine Navy officers. Plaza Militar was formally turned over to the Philippine Government on September 16, 1953. Since the American occupation, Plaza Militar used to be the site of the residence of the Commanding General of the U. S. Army in the Philippines, and since June 1949 it had been used as *interim* housing area for members of the U. S. Embassy staff, on rental free basis. The Cabinet also authorized Pacifico B. Marcelo, district agriculturist of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, to attend the International 4-H Club Congress of America to be held in Chicago from November 29 to December 3, 1953.

The President took time out from a heavy schedule in the evening to visit Governor Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon at the V. Luna General Hospital. The President arrived at the hospital at 7:10 p.m. and left 25 minutes later. He took occasion to take along with him gifts to the patients of the hospital, including a big box of cigarettes from Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzales.

October 28:

The President signed Executive Order No. 635, creating the Roxas Memorial Commission to take charge of the nation-wide campaign for funds for the construction of the Roxas Memorial. He also signed Executive Order No. 636, terminating the collection of tolls at Lipay toll bridge in Zambales, and Proclamation No. 420, declaring the period from November 15 to December 16, 1953, as the Philippine Tourist Promotion Month.

The President left Manila about 10 a.m. by special train for Lucena, Quezon, on his first whistle-stop stump during the current political campaign. He made brief stops at Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, Calamba, and San Pablo, all in Laguna, and at Tiaong, Candelaria, and barrio Bukal in Sariaya, Quezon Province. He arrived in Lucena at 4:55 p.m. accompanied by Senators Camilo Osias and Quintin Paredes. The President spoke in each of his stops, except in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, because the people who gathered to hear him dispersed under heavy downpour.

In his speech in Lucena, he indicated that if he won on November 10, he would stay in office and defy the blood compact of opposition senators not to proclaim him. He called the pact “an undemocratic scheme” to discourage the electorate “to vote for me.” He said the pact is part of the opposition plot of bloodshed and revolution to win the elections. He blasted the *bandillo* groups of the opposition and described them as a provocative act and contrary to the regulations of the Commission on Elections. He pressed his campaign against Ramon Magsaysay, calling him “impulsive, immature, and not prepared for the presidency” but reserved the sharpest barbs against Senator Jose P. Laurel who, by calling for United States intervention, “now wants to make it appear he is pro-American.” The President was enthusiastically welcomed by thousands who jammed the railroad station in Lucena. The reception everywhere he stopped was complete with brass bands and local belles with leis for the President. The crowd was thickest at Candelaria.

October 29:

The President inducted Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz as *ad interim* chief of the Philippine Air Force. Speaking before a crowd of army top brass and ranking government officials who witnessed the induction, the President urged the officers to “make the government strong and respected through your efforts, your sense of justice and fairness, and strict loyalty to the public interest.” He told them “to uphold the dignity and honor of the organization to which you belong.”

Despite inclement weather, the President motored to Malolos in the afternoon and was warmly welcomed by the people of Bulacan upon his arrival. Thousands of people lined the town streets and cheered enthusiastically as the presidential party entered Malolos about 4:30 p.m. At the head of a civic and military parade, the presidential car was led to the town church where *Te Deum* was sung. Representative elements from all parts of Bulacan, headed by their respective municipal officials, converged in the provincial capitol to welcome the President.

Speaking at the mass rally at the bandstand near the church after the *Te Deum*, the President appealed to the people of Bulacan to help him preserve national sovereignty by repudiating the oppositionists who, he said, are bent on surrendering the national heritage our people had fought for so hard for centuries. He denounced the leaders of the opposition who, according to him, are among the staunchest defenders of communists in this country. The President confessed that because of the activities of these leaders who defended communists in local courts of justice, he is more afraid of internal security rather than the external security of the nation. The speech was repeatedly interrupted by loud cheers. The rally broke up about 7:30 p.m. The President returned to Manila after brief conferences with local leaders in the home of Mayor Felix T. Reyes (Independent), who pledged his support to the President.

October 30:

Revenue agents from 52 provinces called at Malacañan at noon to pay their respects, following their five-day convention in Manila. In his informal talk with the provincial revenue agents, the President stressed the necessity for all officials and employees of the government to cooperate in the promotion of clean and orderly elections next month, saying that the coming polls would perhaps be the most important ever to be held in this country. He explained that friendly countries throughout the world are immensely concerned about our young Republic and that it is imperative that the Philippines so conducts itself to maintain the name and prestige this country has established "in the eyes of our friends across the seas." The President also took occasion to congratulate the revenue officials for the enormous increase in government revenue the last few years due to effective methods of tax collections.

Earlier in the morning, the President held conference with Liberal Party leaders including Speaker Eugenio Perez, former Senate President Jose Avelino, Vice-Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, and Senators Vicente Madrigal, Pablo Angeles David, Enrique Magalona, Geronima T. Pecson, and Senatorial Candidate Salipada Pendatun.

October 31:

On the occasion of the inauguration in the evening of the Quirino Elementary School building in Quirino District, the President said the government will pursue its low cost housing program consistently and aggressively and extend it to other parts of the country to enable laborers and low income employees to own their homes. The low-cost housing project which has given homes to thousands of workers and low-income earners, the President said, is one of the most important achievements of the administration. He said that at no time in the history of this country have so many social legislations aimed at improving the standard of living of the masses and those in the rural areas been enacted as during the Liberal Party administration. The government is speeding up its land-for-the-landless and home-for-the-homeless program, the President said, and this time it is money for the penniless. This new program is implemented by the establishment of industries which provide jobs for and the wherewithal of workers, he pointed out. Repeated cheers interrupted the President's enumeration of the administration's accomplishment with regard to the execution of the social justice program.

The President administered the oaths of office to members of the Roxas Memorial Commission in ceremony held at noon at the Palace. Those inducted were Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo, chairman; and the following members: Social Welfare Administrator Asuncion A. Perez, Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, J. Arellano of the National Planning Board, E. Rufino of the Manila Theaters Association, Antonio de las Alas of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, U.P. President Vidal A. Tan, Pilar Normandy of the War Widows Association, and National Treasurer Vicente Gella. Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda and Economic Coordinator Sergio Osmeña, Jr., were not able to take their oaths of office as members of the memorial commission.

At noon the President also administered the oaths of office of officers of the Government Radio and Telegraph Operators Union who called to pay their respects. They were accompanied by Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49 (10), cxlii-clvi.

President's Month in Review: November, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

November 1:

Early in the morning, the President sent wreaths to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Fort Santiago, to the tombs of the late President Quezon and President Roxas at the Cementerio del Norte, to the mausoleum of the *Veteranos de la Revolution*, and to the tombs of the late Archbishop Gabriel Reyes and Archbishop Michael O'Doherty at the San Miguel Pro-Cathedral.

The President left Malacañan at 4: 30 in the afternoon to visit the tombs of Presidents Quezon and Roxas at the Cementerio del Norte and later motored to the family lot at the South Cemetery at San Pedro Makati where his wife and three children and his mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law are buried.

November 2:

The President held a long conference in the morning with Senator Jose C. Zulueta, who pledged all-out support to his bid for re-election. The President left Manila on board the yacht *Apo* for Cavite. He reached Cavite about 8 in the evening, accompanied by Vice-Presidential Candidate Jose Yulo, Senator Zulueta, and Senatorial Candidate Salipada Pendatun. At the rally in front of the provincial capitol, the LP battery of speakers was joined by Senator Geronima T. Pecson and former Representative Jose Topacic Nueno. The Cavite rally was significant in that it was the first time that Senator Zulueta made a public address denouncing his former party, the Nacionalista Party, which he had left only a few days ago.

Speaking at the big Cavite rally, President Quirino urged the people to keep the noble and patriotic spirit of Revolutionary leaders, like General Emilio Aguinaldo, by turning down at the polls the opposition candidates who would invite the United States to intervene in local political affairs when there is no need for such intervention, the Philippines being free and sovereign, and the Republic has survived the severest tests of an independent status. He accused the Nacionalistas of fostering terrorism at the polls with the creation of armed *bandillos* and task forces and couriers with the evident purpose of intimidating voters at the polls on election day. He called the Nacionalistas "cackling hens" that never lay eggs, because they just criticize and talk of ill and ominous things to destroy the people's faith in the government, without doing or even offering anything constructive for the good of the country and the welfare of the people.

November 3:

The President and his running mate and other LP leaders returned to Manila from Cavite about 2 o'clock this morning aboard the yacht *Apo*. He spent the night aboard the yacht anchored in Manila Bay.

At the Cabinet meeting the President authorized the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to issue an additional ₱50 million bonds at 4 per cent interest, redeemable in five years, for more agricultural and industrial loans. Acting Agricultural Secretary Placido L. Mapa, concurrently chairman of the RFC, explained that with the exception of ₱24,000, the entire amount of ₱100 million rehabilitation and development bonds of the RFC previously authorized had been sold to finance industrial and agricultural projects and for home construction loans. The new issue of ₱50 million bonds just authorized by the President will be sold by the RFC to replenish its operating funds.

The President administered the oath of office to Pablo Cuneta as *ad interim* mayor of Pasay City in a ceremony held at the Malacañan social hall shortly before 12 noon. A big delegation of Pasay officials and political leaders came to Malacañan in six buses to witness the oath-taking. In his brief remarks, the President said that Cuneta's appointment as permanent mayor was in recognition of the Matter's splendid showing while acting as city executive for one year.

The President honored the Lions at cocktails in the evening, at Malacañan instead of at the Riviera where the Lions usually hold their meetings, in order “to better cultivate our friendship and association by the informality of our meeting here at Malacañan.” The President told the Lions that the time is ripe for sober minds to restore composure in the face of talks about revolution, violence, bloodshed, and subversion of the people’s will in the election. He called upon the Lions to exert the influence of their organization to help insure free and clean elections on November 10. He said: “If the Lions will exert their influence in these crucial days when our democratic institutions are going to be tested on November 10, it is my hope that you will be instrumental in so instilling in the minds of our people that there should be no extreme action that will ignite the people’s sentiments and cause unnecessary clash of arms.” After assailing the memorandum of the MPM to followers to carry weapons near the polling places and the talks about revolution and bloodshed, the President asked: “Why talk of revolution now? Why talk of bloodshed? Why invite even the United States to intervene in a purely domestic problem?” The Lions presented a plaque to President Quirino in recognition of his leadership and generosity and “as a token of sincere gratitude and appreciation.”

At the mammoth rally, at Plaza Miranda in the evening, the President told the nation to beware of the opposition’s armed *bandillos* and *commandos* which will provoke terrorism and disorders on election day, alleging that the election is not being held above board. He said that if the opposition will carry out their threats of revolution on any armed defiance of the law, the government will be strong enough to cope with the emergency. He denounced what he called the “unthinkable and nefarious” plan of the Nacionalista to invite American intervention in local political affairs. He said the opposition’s harping on intervention by Americans in the Philippine elections has raised “a world scandal” for the country. He scored the opposition for “inviting world press to witness fraud and terrorism” during election, which has been raised by the opposition as a bugaboo in order to discredit the administration abroad.

The rally at Plaza Miranda gathered one of the biggest political crowds ever gathered there since Liberation. Thousands of people in Manila and neighboring communities attended the LP *miting de avance*.

November 4:

The President in the morning swore in Atty. Nicolas Adamos, Nacionalista congressional candidate for the lone district of Zambales, into the Liberal Party fold. Adamos was accompanied to Maiacaiian by his political followers. After he had been sworn in, Adamos pledged to support the entire LP ticket saying “the President is much better qualified than Ramon Magsaysay.”

Headed by Manuel Vergel, president of the United Disabled Veterans’ Association of the Philippines, a large delegation of disabled veterans called at Malacañan in the morning to present the President with a plaque as a “token of our everlasting gratitude for the manifold benefits we have received under your administration.” The group also presented the President with a resolution pledging their loyalty and support to his bid for reelection “so that you may continue with your program of ameliorating the lot of veterans.” The President thanked the veterans for their appreciation of the things he had been able to do for them. He disclosed the current plans of the government to establish a hospital exclusively for veterans and an industrial establishment somewhere in Quezon City for the purpose of employing disabled veterans. “These projects to be undertaken by the government are but in recognition of the services you have rendered your country during the war,” the President told the veterans.

The President enplaned for Lipa City about 2:30 p.m. in a bold move to win votes in the Nacionalista bailiwick of his 1949 presidential rival, Senator P. Laurel. He was accompanied by Jose Yulo, LP vice-presidential candidate, Governor Eliseo Quirino of Ilocos Sur, Jose Topacio Nueno and a group of newsmen. He was joined at Lipa by Senator Pecson. At the Fernando Airbase, the President was welcomed by Batangas LP leaders, including CIR Judge Modesto Castillo, former Mayor Jorge Collantes of Tanauan, Dr. and Mrs. Jose Katigbak, and Lipa Mayor Jose M. Kalaw.

Addressing the Lipa political rally on Plaza Independencia, the President indicated in the strongest warning yet issued to the United States that the presence of U. S. destroyers here could be interpreted as a sign of American intervention in the coming election, a purely Philippine affair. He said if it were not for the current American

intervention issue, the presence of these destroyers would have been considered here as “purely routinary.” He called the attention of the crowd to the editorial of the *Manila Daily Bulletin* in this day’s issue which stated that the presence, of U. S. destroyers in Manila indicates American concern for elections in the Philippines. But, he said, as long as he is the head of this country he would not allow any foreign power to intervene in local affairs.

November 5:

The President administered the oath of office to Justice Potenciano Pecson of the Court of Appeals. The President also inducted into office Judge Hermogenes Concepcion, who is taking the sala vacated by Justice Pecson in Manila; Judge Froilan Bayona of the first sala in Manila; and Judge Manuel P. Barcelona, who replaces Judge Concepcion in Baguio.

The President ordered the Director of Lands to sell to actual occupants the vast Tondo foreshore and reclaimed lands, including a portion of the community known as Barrio Fugoso, in line with the land-for-the-landless program of the administration. The sale of the parcels of land was recommended by the committee created by the President in connection with the implementation of Republic Act No. 907 which provided for the disposition of the foreshore lands.

In his first press conference with some 20 foreign newspapermen who came to Manila to cover the elections, the President said he welcomes the press of the world to the Philippines to witness the presidential elections on November 10, because he wants “to show to the world that we can make democracy work” without outside help. He assured the foreign correspondents that the Government stands ready to facilitate the widest coverage of the balloting. The President said he realized a legitimate interest of the United States in the success of the Republic, but that this interest should not involve acts which, in the heat of a political campaign, could arouse suspicion that the American people are “interested” in or are backing any particular candidate. “We want to maintain the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States,” he declared. “We will meet our commitments to you in every respect; but, for God’s sake, let us alone in our elections.”

In the evening, the President gave a cocktail party at Malacañan in honor of the Manila, the Central, and the Southern Jaycee chapters. During the cocktails the Manila Jaycees presented the President with a plaque “in grateful appreciation” for all the good things “that the President has been doing for the country and the Jaycee organization. Larry Marquez, president of the Manila Jaycees, in presenting the plaque to the President, said that President Quirino is the greatest living benefactor of the Jaycees.

Marquez recalled that it was greatly due to the President’s help that the Philippine Jaycees had been able to make Manila the seat of the World Jaycee Conference sometime ago. On that occasion, a Filipino was elected World Jaycee president. The President in response said that he was proud of the Jaycees and that he would further exert his efforts to merit “your pride in me.” He expressed his thanks for the Jaycees’ act of gratitude and the hope that the Jaycees would continue to serve as models, to follow up their work and to go higher in their achievements to serve as inspiration to others.

November 6:

The President arrived at Cauayan, Isabela, at 9:45 a.m. aboard the presidential plane *Laong Laan*. He was accompanied by his running mate, Jose Yulo, and Senator Quintin Paredes and Ex-Senator Prospero Sanidad. At the airport to greet the President were delegations from all the 25 towns of Isabela, headed by their respective mayors. Isabela Governor Felix Caro and Representative Samuel Reyes were also on hand to receive the President. Addressing a huge crowd that gathered at the Cauayan airstrip the President rebutted the claims of opposition candidates who had visited the province that he neglected the provinces of Northern Luzon during his incumbency. He enumerated the irrigation projects, bridges, and other benefits extended to Isabela by the national government under his administration. He said it has always been his policy to distribute¹ benefits evenly throughout the country. The President got a prolonged applause when he spoke in Ibanag and recounted some of his early experiences as a politician when he had to traverse the Cagayan Valley on horseback while campaigning for senator in the first senatorial district of which Cagayan Valley is a pari.

Following the Cauayan rally, the President boarded the plane for Tuguegarao, Cagayan. The presidential party arrived in Tuguegarao at 11:30 a.m.

November 7:

Before leaving Aparri, the President told the press that the solid north remains undented by the opposition. His confidence in the solid north has been bolstered by the show of spontaneous welcome in Cauayan, Tuguegarao, and Aparri, which he stumped the previous day. The cheering crowds have been so unprecedented in size and enthusiasm in those towns that the President is sure he is still loved by the people of the Cagayan Valley.

The presidential party landed at the Lingayen airport at 9:45 a.m. The President was met by a huge crowd headed by Speaker Eugenio Perez, Senator Geronima T. Pecson, Governor Juan de G. Rodriguez, and top provincial LP leaders. The President greeted the people gathered at the Lingayen plaza shortly after landing from Aparri but he delivered no speech. He proceeded immediately to Alaminos where he addressed some 40,000 people. In his Alaminos speech the President virtually called Magsaysay a liar for saying that he had talked to former President Truman for 40 minutes and got \$40 million aid for Filipino veterans. He said the aid was granted through the Rogers Bill passed by the U. S. Congress and was not due to Magsaysay. The President minced no words in denouncing his opponents for blocking and threatening the successful prosecution of the administration's program.

From Alaminos, the President proceeded to Tayug, the hometown of Representative Cipriano Alias, where 50,000 people from Tayug and the neighboring towns gave the President and his running mate a rousing welcome in the evening. Minister and Mrs. Narciso Ramos, former Secretary Teofilo Sison, Luis Lichauco and wife, and Mrs. Ricardo Gonzales received the presidential party. The President expressed gratitude for the big reception and said, judging from the big and enthusiastic reception he received in Pangasinan, he cannot see any basis for the boast of Magsaysay that he will get 100,000 majority in Pangasinan. This statement was greeted with prolonged applause. The President recited the achievements of his administration and, on the basis of such performance, he pleaded for his continuation in office to finish the good work.

November 9:

The President sent a letter to Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Nuncio, calling attention to activities of some bishops in the Philippines taking active part in politics contrary to a proclamation of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, as quoted by Archbishop Rufino Santos in a radio message published in the metropolitan papers this morning. He quoted in the letter "just for your information and for any possible action you may wish to take" some of the messages he had received thus far from Bohol regarding the activities of the Bishop of Tagbilaran and some priests of Bohol that all run counter to what Pope Leo XIII proclaimed as quoted by Archbishop Santos in his message to all Filipino Catholics. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4811-4812, for the full text of the letter.)

In a message broadcast over all radio stations at 7 p.m. from his study in Malacañan before a group of civic leaders and officials, the President appealed to the people for a clean, orderly, and peaceful elections. "I enjoin you all to refrain from any act that may mar the normal conduct of the elections," the President said. He invoked the patriotism, good judgment, and the respect for law and order of the Filipino people "in the privileged hour" in the decision which they are called upon to make.

November 10:

The first complete over-all report on the state of peace and order on election day, as transmitted to the President by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Constabulary, indicates that as of 12 o'clock noon this day there was complete peace and order in the conduct of the elections throughout the country. What is significant in the report is that except for isolated minor disturbances and misunderstandings, voting has been generally free and orderly, the population calm, and nowhere is there any threat to public tranquility. While there are some cases of violence such as shootings in Cavite resulting in the death of a Liberal official and companions and two NP leaders, while probably politically motivated, did not stem from, or interfere with, election proceedings and did not occur in election precincts or their immediate neighborhood.

The President expressed complete satisfaction over the report covering the first half of the day of voting and he considered it as vindicating the position he has taken throughout the campaign that the election will be orderly and peaceful because the people are politically mature and they can be depended upon to value and safeguard their rights within the law, despite dire threats and constantly repeated charges from opposition quarters. The President said: “. . . Today, proceedings stand as an incontrovertible proof that democracy is secure in our country and an assurance that we firmly hold aloft its bright torch in our part of the world. This comes as a resounding rebuke to those who have systematically propagated false charges that the administration will subvert the popular will. It is a clear vindication of the stand I have taken during the campaign that we are a mature people worthy of our independence and sovereignty.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 4812, for the full text of the statement issued by the President shortly before midnight of Election Day.)

November 12:

The President prepared to turn over the affairs of state to President-elect Ramon Magsaysay. Earlier he conceded to Magsaysay, making the end of a bitter struggle for his bid to remain as President for another two years. His immediate plan after leaving Malacañan is to retire to his Novaliches farm and lead a country gentleman's life, according to his Press Secretary. President Quirino's full statement conceding his defeat follows:

“In this year's election evidently the people expected much in a change of administration. My most fervent prayer at this hour is that the change is for the better.

The people's verdict should be accepted for the sake of national unity. I have nothing but good wishes for the country and my successor.”

Soon after President Quirino conceded defeat about 12 noon, President-elect Ramon Magsaysay issued a statement, calling on the nation to close ranks behind his leadership and address itself “as one people” to the tasks ahead. “Our victory,” he said, “has been conceded. I thank the President for his good wishes. During the next four years,” he declared, “I ask all Filipinos to work together as one people. I approach my own task with humility and dedication to the nation, and with a prayer to Almighty God for his continued love and guidance.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 4813, for the full text of the letter.)

November 13:

The President received John A. F. Ennals, secretary general of the World Federation of the U. N. Associations who called at Malacañan to pay his respect following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of Asian countries. Ennals informed the President that his tour was in the interest of education.

The President issued Proclamation No. 421, declaring Thursday, November 26, 1953, as a special public holiday for national thanksgiving. In his proclamation the President called upon all the people ‘to turn their thoughts and actions on that day towards Almighty God and offer Him a prayer of thanks for all the blessings He has showered upon us.’

The President ordered all the district engineers to resume public works immediately and employ all laborers in public works projects all over the country. About 50,000 laborers who were laid off by the operation of a provision of the public works law suspending the release of funds 45 days before the elections will be returned to their jobs following the President's directive to Public Works Secretary Pablo Lorenzo to order all district engineers and city engineers to resume work in public works projects' immediately.

November 14:

The President met his Cabinet at 11:30 a.m. and instructed the Cabinet members to clear their desks for the incoming administration. Five Cabinet men applied for retirement effective at the end of the year and the rest announced their resignation effective on December 30, 1953.' The Cabinet members agreed to remain in office with the President until his term ends in December.

During the Cabinet meeting the President signed Executive Order No. 642, creating a commission to ascertain and study the conditions obtaining in the reclaimed areas and forshore lands in Tondo, Manila, in-order to adopt adequate and effective measures of, solving the housing and other social problems in the area. He also signed Administrative Order No. 221, designating members of the Rizal Day Committee to make all the arrangement necessary for the celebration of Rizal Day all over the Philippines.

The President reorganized the board of directors of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation. He appointed two new *ad interim* members of the board; namely, Charles Parsons, president of the Luzon Stevedoring, and Bienvenido Medrano, general manager of the De La Rama Steamship Co. They replaced Carlos Fernandez of Compañía Maritima and Venancio Lim, head of an electric firm bearing his name. The President also appointed Manuel I. Felizardo as *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the National Power Corporation.

November 15:

In his 61st montly radio chat broadcast at 7 p. m. from his study in Malacañan, the President called on the people to forget partisan politics and give the incoming administration of President-elect Ramon. Magsaysay "all possible cooperation." He said: "Now that the last elections, after one of the most hard-fought political battles in our history, are over, it becomes evident that our duty, everybody's duty, is to concentrate our attention to constructive pursuits.

"A new administration will need all possible cooperation from all elements to see that its highest motives are appreciated and its plans understood and executed in the interest of the nation. Political temperance is imperative for real constructive work. This is the voice of experience, especially mine." (See *Historical Papers and Documents* pp. 4813-4814, for the full text of the radio chat)

November 16:

Accompanied by his aides, the President boarded the plane *Laong Loan* and landed at Vigan about 10:25 a.m. A large crowd headed by local officials including Gov. Eliseo Quirino and Rep. Floro Crisologo was at the airfield to welcome the President. A delegation from La Union led by Representative Cases was also on hand to greet the President. From the airfield the Chief Executive was conveyed in a long motorcade to Caoayan, hometown of his late father, which is currently celebrating its fiesta. There the President heard a special mass and a *Te Deum*. From Caoayan, he motored back to Vigan where he had a conference with local officials.

In a brief conference at the Syquia Mansion where the President gave an informal luncheon, he counselled Ilocos provincial and municipal officials to erase all vestiges of bitterness engendered by the election results and urged' them to give the new administration the same degree of cooperation they have given him. He advised them to keep calm and refrain from, any acts that may impair peace at a time when the country needed peace most. He asked political leaders to forget awhile political interests for the sake of national unity.

Messages from friends all over the country kept arriving at the Syquia Mansion, felicitating him, on his 63rd birthday anniversary. A rush telegram: was received by the President from President-elect Magsaysay reading as follows: "Please accept my sincerest felicitations and my best wishes."

In the evening, a torch parade at the Syquia Mansion fetched the President to the provincial capitol where a reception and ball was held in his honor.

Executive Secretary Marciano Roque inducted into Office Dr. Gervasio Erana as chairman of the Board of Dental Examiners for another term of three years, expiring on November 27, 1956. Other members of the Board are Dr. Agustin Zarate and Dr. Diosdado Carpio.

November 17:

The President sent messages to President-elect Ramon Magsaysay and former President Sergio Osmeña thanking them for their birthday felicitations to him. His message to President-elect Magsaysay reads: "Thanks for your birthday good wishes." The message to President Osmeña says: "Deeply appreciate your felicitations on my birthday."

November 18:

The President ordered the immediate release of available public works fund for repairs of public works damaged during the recent typhoon. The President's directive was made in a rush, radiogram to Executive Secretary Marciano Roque this day. The President is marooned in Vigan owing to the typhoon that lashed against Vigan up to early hour this morning. He could not fly nor motor to Poro Point because of poor visibility and the destruction of two bridges on the way.

At a press conference after luncheon at the Syquia Mansion, the President denounced American government representatives for active politicking and intervention in the recent Philippine election through the JUSMAG (Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group). He revealed that Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, JUSMAG Chief, circularized his staff on November 5 to the effect that they could act as part of the Philippine Army, with all the rights and powers to enter electoral precincts and supervise the elections. The President said that while General Cannon's circular was dated November 5, there was a deliberate attempt to keep the plan from him and from the AFP, because Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP Chief of Staff, was furnished a copy of the circular only on November 11 when it was too late to make an issue of it.

November 19:

Malacañan released the full text of instructions of JUSMAG to its personnel sent out in 24 teams to "supervise" the AFP and PC connection with the last elections, calling attention to the fact that the text issued by the U. S. Embassy was incomplete. Malacañan pointed out that the U. S. Embassy has apparently withheld deliberately the portion of the memorandum of Maj. Gen. Cannon making applicable to JUSMAG officers the regulations issued exclusively to govern the conduct of the AFP and the PC, and in that sense giving them the same immunity, besides authorizing them to perform the same duties as the latter in the enforcement of the Election Law. President Quirino's charge of American intervention in the last elections is based precisely on JUSMAG's instructions to its officers assigned in the field to operate exactly in the same manner and under the same rules as the AFP and the PC personnel assigned to enforce the Election Law. It was pointed out that JUSMAG not only presumed to "supervise" the enforcement of the Election Law by the AFP and the PC but also arrogated to itself and its representatives the right and authority to intervene whether asked to or not under circumstances, deemed by them "appropriate."

The President returned to Manila from Vigan where he had been marooned for two days owing to typhoon *Cora* which lashed northern Luzon. At the Nichols airbase to meet him at noon were Health Secretary Juan Salcedo, Jr., Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola.

November 20:

The President was assured by Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola at the special meeting of the Cabinet that the Philippine government is; not bankrupt and that the national treasury is still able to meet the ordinary expenses of the government. Montinola said he can state without fear of successful contradiction that no expenditures unauthorized by appropriations by Congress have been allowed to be disbursed. He pointed out that the misleading statements in the press on the true status of the government finances are due to two principal causes; namely, (1) lack of reliable, final figures on receipts and expenditures which are available only from one source—the General Auditing Office; and (2) lack of the proper understanding of the government financing and accounting system. He added that the actual cash balance of government funds in the National Treasury and in the banks depend on seasonal collections and actual expenditures, and these can only be accurately ascertained on the basis of the audited records of the General Auditing Office which usually come out several months later.

The President instructed all members of his Cabinet to direct their property officers to rush inventories of the fiscal properties of the government for the turn-over to the incoming administration. He also directed all members of the Cabinet who are abroad to return immediately to clear their desks for the new administration. These Cabinet members abroad are Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, who is in Washington, also Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo, who had gone to Mexico from Washington, D. C.

The President signed the following instruments of certificate of treaties of friendship and air agreements between the Philippines and other countries.

(1) The treaty of Friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of India concluded and signed in Manila on July 11, 1952, and concurred in by the Philippine Senate in its resolution adopted on May 19, 1953;

(2) Agreement relating to Air Services between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Swiss Federal Council concluded and signed in Manila on March 8, 1952, and concurred in by the Philippine Senate on May 21, 1953;

(3) Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Spain concluded and signed at Madrid on October 6, 1951, concurred in by the Philippine Senate on May 22, 1952.

The President reappointed Cornelio Balmaceda *ad interim* chairman and Juan Cojuangco and Graciano Borja *ad interim* members of the board of directors of the Price Stabilization Corporation. He also appointed Teofila D. Reyes *ad interim* member of the board of directors of the PRISCO, vice Arturo Ignacio, for his unexpired term ending October 2, 1955. In the absence of Juan Cojuangco, who is abroad, the President designated temporarily Rufino P. Halili as member of the board of directors. The President, moreover, appointed Antonio Castro *ad interim* deputy Commissioner of the National Employment Service and Dr. Rodolfo G. Tiquia, a Nacionalista, as member of the provincial board of Pampanga, vice Emilio P. Cortez, representative-elect of the 2nd district of Pampanga.

The President authorized the Director of Lends to institute expropriation proceedings for the acquisition by the government of a certain landed estate in Baao, Camarines Sur, for distribution *tobona fide* tenants in line with the land-for-the-landless policy of his administration. Comprising an area of 1,017.6272 hectares with an assessed value of ₱20,353.54, the estate is tenanted by 220 families or some 943 inhabitants. The property is owned by a corporation known as the "Union Agricola y Pecuaria del Sur de Luzon."

November 21:

The President at noon officially welcomed to the Philippines U. S. Vice President Richard M. Nixon who called at Malacañan to pay his respects. Accompanied by Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Felino Neri, Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, and some foreign correspondents, Nixon arrived at the Malacañan Palace grounds at exactly 11 a.m. After acknowledging the flourishes rendered by an honor guard formed by a unit of the Presidential Guards at the Palace front door, the Vice President was directly ushered to the Palace study where President Quirino had waited for him.

After the exchange of cordial greetings, visiting American Vice President presented President Quirino with a personal letter of greetings from U. S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Nixon also presented the President with an autographed chromium framed picture of the U. S. Chief Executive as a memento of his visit and as an expression of affection of the American people for the Philippine President personally and for the Filipino people.

In the course of the call which lasted for an hour and 15 minutes, President Quirino renewed his drive for a Southeast Asian Union with United States leadership as he discussed with Vice President Nixon the Far Eastern situation. The United States, President Quirino stressed, should now take advantage of the current readiness of countries in this, side of the world to follow American leadership and solidify the union of such countries. He pointed out that the SEA Union need not necessarily be a military alliance, but it should be more of moral rearmament of Southeast Asian countries which are on the, side of the democracies. He said it should be more of an

economic, cultural, and political union. The United States, President Quirino pointed out, could help in the development of those countries and strengthen them to withstand communistic assaults, through adequate financial aid and assistance and guidance. Vice President Nixon assured President Quirino that he would take up his proposals in Washington when he returns. He explained that he is on a tour of the Far East countries precisely to interview their leaders and get their views and ideas on the Far Eastern situation in the face of the threat of communist aggression.

In the evening the President gave a state dinner at the Palace in honor of Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon. The affair was attended by high government officials and members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

November 22:

The President took his architect, Jose Zaragoza, to his country home in Novaliches to inspect the progress of the construction of the house which is expected to be ready for occupancy toward the end of December. The President stayed at Novaliches the whole day. Upon his return to Malacañan in the evening, he went over the draft of the executive order which will restore the writ of *habeas corpus* all over the Philippines.

November 23:

The President met Liberal Party members of Congress who were in Manila at a luncheon at Malacañan to exchange impressions. They discussed legislations and the role of the Liberal Party as a minority in Congress, although the meeting was described by Malacañan as purely social, the President having wanted to meet the elected members of Congress belonging to the Liberal Party.

November 24:

The President lifted the suspension of the privilege of *Habeas corpus* throughout the Philippines. He signed Proclamation No. 424, restoring the writ in a number of provinces where it was suspended after a lengthy consultation with members of his Cabinet, ending, at 2:30 p.m. The President said in restoring the writ of *Habeas corpus* that “the dangers to the national security and the disturbances to public order and safety which impelled the total suspension of the writ have been minimized, if not altogether eliminated as attested by the statement to that effect of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who recommends that the privilege of the said writ be now fully restored throughout the country.

Earlier in the morning, the President had a long conference with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque during which he acted on a high pile of pending state papers. He convoked the regular Tuesday meeting of the Cabinet about 12 noon.

November 25:

In an extemporaneous speech in the morning as he laid the cornerstone of the F18-million Philippine Veterans Memorial Hospital on Hilaga Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, the President assured America of the Philippines’ determination to cooperate in the principles of mutual determination to defend side by side “our common heritage, freedom, democracy, and progress” no matter what is going to happen to us in our local political strifes. He added, however, that “all we want is for the United States to leave us alone to manage our own domestic affairs.” The President said that he attended the laying of the cornerstone of the 27-building veterans’ hospital because he wanted “to write with you the last chapter of my administration.” He expressed his “gratitude in representation of the Filipino people for this evidence of America’s concern in the preservation of the health of those who have fought side by side with America in her last war with Japan.”

The President, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, AFP chief of staff, left Malacañan a little before 10 a. m., and upon arrival at the hospital compound in Diliman about ten minutes later, was given military honors. After the flourishes and the playing of the National Anthem, the President ascended the stage erected in front of the

cornerstone. After the President's speech, Lt' Col. Nicolas Ortega, chief of the Chaplain Corps, blessed the cornerstone. The President then turned the crank that lowered three ammunition shells containing documents that were lowered down the cornerstone. John T. Cooper, manager of the Manila Regional Office of the United States Veterans Administration, read the message of Hon. Harvey V. Highly, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. The message said in part: "This magnificent new hospital is destined, I trust, to stand for many years, not only as a monument to the best medical care for sick and disabled veterans but as a symbol of enduring friendship between the Philippines Republic and the United States of America."

The President said in issuing his message in the evening on the national observance of Thanksgiving Day that the Filipino nation is grateful particularly for having "weathered a trying year in our life as a young democracy." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 4814, for the full text of the President's thanksgiving message.) The President signed on November 12 Proclamation No. 421, proclaiming November 26, 1953, as a special public holiday for national thanksgiving.

November 26:

The President led the nation in the quiet observance of Thanksgiving Day. He began the day by waking up early and hearing mass together with his children at the Palace chapel. He breakfasted with his children, grandchildren, and relatives after the mass. About 11 a.m. he went to his home at Novaliches. He returned to Malacañan at 5:45 p.m.

November 27:

The President in the evening officially welcomed to the Philippines the delegates to the 8th Pacific Science Congress and to the 4th Eastern Prehistory Congress whom he honored with cocktails at Malacañan. Speaking extemporaneously before some 270 foreign scientists in addition to some 300 local scientists, the President said that holding of science and prehistoric congress in the Philippines is the biggest incentive that will inject new enthusiasm and interest to our local scientists who are exerting/their efforts to contribute to the country's progress. He told the delegates that the Philippine Government has always shown an active interest in promoting the development of science in the country. He said this interest started with the creation of the National Research Council way back in 1923, and that other scientific bodies had been created afterwards to conduct researches. The President expressed the hope that the scientific congresses being held here would contribute to the further development of the country. He said he refused to be called "as belonging to an undeveloped area and a backward people." In response to the President's speech, the scientist delegate from Australia thanked the Chief Executive for the hospitality extended to the scientists and expressed the hope that the science congress would produce benefits to the Philippines.

November 28:

The President signed Proclamation No. 425 calling for a special election to fill the existing vacancy in the office of mayor of La Paz, Leyte. The date set for this special election is December 29, 1953. The vacancy in the office of mayor of La Paz was the result of the subsequent declaration of ineligibility to office of the person who had been proclaimed mayor for having received the highest number of votes in the election of November 13, 1951.

The President received at 11 a.m. Minister Katsumi Ono, chief of the Japanese Mission in Manila, who-paid a courtesy call. Ono brought to the President a letter of Japanese Premier Yoshida which expresses Japan's desire for closer friendship and cooperation with the Philippines. He took occasion to convey to the President the gratitude of the people of Japan for the clemency granted by the Philippine Chief Executive to Japanese prisoners of war. He said that the Japanese people will not forget the President's big heart in this gesture of goodwill and friendship for the former enemy country.

November 29:

Malacañan said that the President had ordered the preparation of the appointment of Philippine Ambassador to Spain Manuel Moran to the Philippine Supreme Court in compliance with his promise to' the Ambassador to return him to

the high tribunal, but Moran declined the appointment after the result of the last elections was known. It was recalled that when President Quirino appointed the then Chief of Justice Manuel Moran as ambassador to Spain, it was with the understanding that he would be returned to the high tribunal as it is his desire to retire as a member of the Supreme Court to entitle him to life gratuity. Last February, when Ambassador Moran accompanied to Manila Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo, he reiterated to the President his desire to be returned to the Philippine Supreme Court upon the retirement of Justice Felicisimo Feria.

The President called on the people to keep “always ringing in our hearts Bonifacio’s liberty cry in Balintawak, and bravely show in all our deeds that we are determined to live and die for the preservation of Philippine independence and sovereignty.” The President made this appeal in his message to the nation on the occasion of Bonifacio Day, November 30. He stressed in his message that today we are proud of our independence and the success that “we have thus far made in making this Republic respected if not envied by the whole world,” but he cautioned that “we should not falter nor slacken in our vigilance over our hard-won freedom.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4814-4815, for the full text of the Bonifacio Day message.)

November 30:

The President at 11:15 a.m. received U. S. Secretary of the Navy Robert Anderson who paid a courtesy call. Secretary Anderson was accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance and Admiral Richard Cruzen. The President drank a toast welcoming Secretary Anderson to the Philippines, and in return the distinguished visitor drank “to your health, Mr. President.” The talks were confined to social amenities. No defense matter was ever brought up in the conversation.

Later the President received Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno who brought him encouraging news regarding the prospects of the proposed revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. Cuaderno returned a few days ago from a five-month stay in the United States where he had worked with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde to prepare the ground work for the revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

President's Month in Review: December, 1953

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

December 1:

The President signed Executive Order No. 225, creating a committee to take charge of the inauguration of the President and the Vice President of the Philippines on December 30, 1953. The nine-man inaugural committee will be under the joint chairmanship of Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Senator Francisco A. Delgado. The other members of the committee are Sen. Enrique Magalona, Sen. Jose C. Locsin, Sen. Macario Peralta, Jr., Rep. Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Rep. Diosdado Macapagal, Rep. Jose J. Roy, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, and Governor Juan de G. Rodriguez, Vicente Lontoc, secretary of the Cabinet, will act as executive secretary. The President authorized Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to raise the necessary funds for the expenditures on the inaugural ceremonies.

Also signed during the Cabinet meeting was the instrumentality of ratification by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines of the Postal Convention between the governments of the Philippines and Spain. The convention was concluded and signed in Madrid on October 6, 1951, when President Quirino was in Spain as guest of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

During the Cabinet meeting the President received a copy of the information filed against Governor Dominador M. Camerino of Cavite for alleged sedition and arbitrary and illegal detention. The information was submitted to the President by Acting Justice Secretary Roberto Gianzon.

The President formally received in the afternoon the credentials of Jose Manuel Moneta, new envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina. In the course of the ceremony which lasted about 10 minutes, the President and the new Argentina envoy pledged in their brief speeches in Spanish to strengthen further the existing relations between the Philippines and Argentina. After the ceremony, they exchanged toasts for the continued friendship of their two countries.

December 2:

The President devoted the whole day to clearing his desk of all pending papers preparatory to his leaving Malacañan on December 30. Waking up early in the morning, he summoned Executive Secretary Marciano Roque who brought to his breakfast table a pile of important pending papers. He instructed Roque to have all pending matters prepared for his action and to bring matters to his attention without much loss of time. In the afternoon, the President resumed his work on state papers, assisted by Secretary Roque.

December 3:

The President referred to Acting Justice Secretary Roberto Gianzon for study and recommendation the administrative charges of former Cavite Governor Rafael Trias against incumbent Governor Dominador M. Camerino. Trias urged the suspension of Camerino from office. According to Malacañan, the copy of the charges was received by the President only this day. After reading the charges, the President decided to refer the papers to the Department of Justice for study and recommendation.

December 4:

The President ordered the reinstatement of Governor Adelmo C. Camacho of Bataan after a reprimand and a warning. The reprimand and reinstatement of Camacho was in accordance with the recommendation of the Integrity Board which had investigated the administrative charges against him. The Integrity Board found Governor Camacho guilty of one of the charges which consisted of threats and intimidation, but the other five charges filed against him

were either dropped or withdrawn or not substantiated. (See pp. 5275-5276, for the complete text of Administrative Order No. 226 signed by the President reprimanding Governor Camacho.)

The President resumed work on pending state papers in his desire to clear his desk of all important national matters before the new administration takes over on December 30. About 1 p.m., the President boarded his car and motored to Fisher Avenue to attend the luncheon given by Economic Administrator and Mrs. Sergio Osmena, Jr., at their residence in Pasay City on the occasion of Mr. Osmena's 37th birthday anniversary.

December 5:

The President continued poring over pending papers the whole morning. Executive Secretary Marciano Roque assisted him in clearing his desk of various pending matters.

In the evening, the President attended the inauguration of the new ₱3-million laboratories of E. R. Squibb and Sons (Philippines) Corporation at Buendia Extension in San Pedro, Makati, Rizal, as guest of honor. Speaking at the inauguration ceremonies, the President said the new structure housing the laboratories of the local E. R. Squibb and Sons Corporation stands as an evidence of faith in the Philippine government and the conviction that we can well protect foreign investments. It is also an evidence, he said, of the spirit of cooperation by foreign investors in the program of economic development of the country launched by the government. The President said he is gratified to have found out that during the last two or three years, "we found occasion not only to give encouragement to the industrialists who are willing to take the risks in making investments in this country, but also to inspire in them the response that they have shown, one of which is your company's response to our invitation. [See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5324-5326, for the full text of the President's extemporaneous remarks and of that of Park E. Green, vice president and general manager of the E. R. Squibb and Sons (Philippines) Corporation.]

December 6:

The President spent a quiet Sunday at his Novaliches home supervising the preparations of his country house where he will live after his term ends on December 30. In the morning he looked into his corn patches and fishpond. In the afternoon he went over some state papers he had brought along with him. He returned to the Palace about 6:20 in the evening.

December 7:

The President issued Proclamation No. 427 reserving for child welfare purposes about 30,525 square meters of the private domain of the government situated in Cubao, Quezon City. The land will be used for the construction of a protective home for boys, a home for the aged and infirm, and rehabilitation center for the physically handicapped in order to train them for gainful occupation, such as piggery, poultry, goat raising, truck gardening, and industrial crafts.

Liberal Party provincial governors now in Manila following up matters pertaining to their respective provinces called on the President at Malacañan about 12 noon. In his informal talks with the provincial chief executives, the President impressed on them the necessity of closing ranks and solidifying the Liberal Party. He said that defeat is part of the game of politics and that a well organized political party should be prepared to take victory as well as defeat. He warned his partymen against efforts of their opponents to disintegrate the Liberal Party. The President said that although he intended to go into retirement, he had no intentions of deserting the party that had given him the opportunity to serve the people.

December 8:

The President suspended from office Governor'-Domination, M. Camerino of Cavite' upon the recommendation of Acting Justice Secretary Roberto Gianzon to whom the administrative charges filed against the Cavite governor had been referred for study and recommendation.' The suspension order took effect immediately and shall continue until

final determination of the administrative charges by the Integrity Board Deputy Governor Alfonso Sarayba was inducted into office in the afternoon by the President at Malacañan to take the place of Camermo.

Assisted by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque, the President spent the morning in his private study working continuously on piles of papers sent over to him by department secretaries for action. The regular Tuesday meeting of the Cabinet was postponed until the next day.

December 9:

At the Cabinet meeting the President directed the fiscal officers of the government to look into the real financial situation of the Republic. He directed Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven to meet immediately with the Governor of the Central Bank and the Auditor General of the Philippines to find out the real deficit and indebtedness of the government, and to determine whether the government is really broke. The President's directive to finance officers came in the wake of reports published in the newspapers by two committees of President-elect Ramon Magsaysay to the effect that the government is broke. The President also ordered the liquidation and closing of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission, which had been organized by the President to raise money to finance the drive against the Huks and other dissidents.

The Cabinet approved to grant Christmas bonus to personnel of government corporations that had made profit during the year and can afford to grant such bonus. The bonus will be 20 per cent of the monthly salary or wage of all employees and laborers who receive ₱200 a month and below. A similar bonus or Christmas gift was authorized by the Cabinet last year for government corporations that had made profits.

December 10:

The President received in the morning Senator Quintin Paredes and former Senator Jose Avelino. The three had a long huddle over matters pertaining to the revitalization of the Liberal Party. Then the President conferred with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque on pending Palace matters until 2:30 p.m. when he began receiving callers. In the evening, the President received James Jacobson, vice president of the Chase National Bank of New York, and Mrs. Jacobson.

December 11:

In the course of his conversation with, members of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, who called at Malacañan at noon, the President said that America should lead in bringing the democracies and freedom-loving countries in Asia into a union. He said that America should take advantage of the readiness of the democracies to follow the leadership of the United States and bring together those countries into a collective organization to resist communist aggression in Asia. The party of congressmen and their aides were headed by Representative Walter B. Judd, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Representative Judd assured the President that America will stick loyally by the countries that fought side by side with her in the last war. Judd said this because he felt that the Filipinos must have resented the apparent too much help that the United States was extending to Japan, the former enemy country, and leaving the Philippines out. "You certainly took the words out of my mouth, Mr. Congressman," the President said in reply. Representative Judd assured the President that the American people will stick by those who fought with her during the time America needed allies most.

After receiving the American congressmen, the President motored to his country home in Novaliches. He was accompanied by his staff, including his aides and assistant private secretary, Juanito C. Gella. The President slept at his country home. It was the first time he ever spent the night there.

December 12:

The President woke up early in the morning and strolled around the premises of his Novaliches home, inspecting his vegetable patches. After breakfast, he worked with Juanito Geila on a big pile of papers on prisoners recommended by the Board of Pardons and Parole for executive clemency.

The President left Novaliches at 7 p.m. and arrived at Malacañan at 7:30 p.m. He changed clothes and then went to the residence of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nila Syquia Mendoza, in San Juan, Rizal, to attend her birthday celebration. His children, Mr. and Mrs. Luis "Chito" Gonzalez, accompanied him.

December 13:

The President woke up early and, after reading the papers, heard mass at the Palace chapel. Before noon, Executive Secretary Marciano Roque brought the President some more pardon papers forwarded by the Board of Pardons and Parole. Later, Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola came to report on the financial situation of the country which the President is expected to touch on his last radio chat to the nation on December 15. The President had luncheon at one o'clock with Public Works Secretary and Mrs. Pablo Lorenzo. In the evening, he enjoyed a movie entitled the *Red Spy* at the Palace dining room.

December 14:

The President continued clearing his desk of pending administrative matters. Assisted by Secretary Roque, he spent the whole morning in his office at the Executive Building where he kept working on piles of papers sent over from various departments for action. Shortly before 11 a.m., the President summoned Juanito Gella and dictated the first draft of his 62nd and last radio chat to the nation to be delivered the next day, not from his study room but from the Palace dining room in order to accommodate more people.

In the evening, the President gave an informal dinner in honor of James Jacobson, vice president of the Chase National Bank in New York City, and Mrs. Jacobson. Mr. Jacobson arrived in Manila recently with his wife in the course of a tour of the Far East.

December 15:

The President had a breakfast conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde who called on him to tender a lengthy report on the United Nations and the prospect of securing amendment this time to the Bell Trade Agreement between the Philippines and the United States. Elizalde had just returned to the Philippines from Washington. He expressed pessimism over the prospect of the Bell Trade Act revision this time. The President also conferred with various department heads whom he had previously instructed to dispose of all pending matters in their respective departments.

During the Cabinet meeting convoked at 12 noon, the President took up with his Cabinet secretaries the reports of financial officers on the financial operation of the government. Finance Secretary Aurelio Montinola and Budget Commissioner Joven submitted a statement of income and expenditures of the National Government projected up to December 31, 1953, subscribed to by them with the concurrence of the Auditor General. After an examination of the statement, together with the figures presented with it, the President observed that the Government is not bankrupt as has been publicized continuously in the press. It will have at its disposal expenditures from December 12 to 31, 1953, the sum of ₱66,900,000. Deducting the sum of ₱15,588,424 which represents cash withdrawals from the National Treasury from December 13 to 31, 1953, on the basis of the daily average of ₱1,113,466, it will be seen, according to the figures presented, that there will remain a balance of ₱51 million which should be more than ample to take care of the normal activities of the National Government up to the end of the year.

In response to a petition of all parties concerned received at Malacañan, and considering the inability of La Paz, Leyte, to shoulder necessary expenses for an special election for the purpose of filling an existing vacancy in the office of the mayor of that municipality, the President issued Proclamation No. 428, revoking Proclamation No. 425, which called for an special election in La Paz to elect a new mayor.

The President, in his last radio chat aircast from the Palace dining hall, declared that the successful Liberal Party program has given the incoming administration “a broad base on which to proceed to farther and greater goals.” According to the President, the outgoing administration’s successful efforts in restoring peace and order, in spurring production, in giving land to the landless, and in encouraging industrialization have afforded the new regime a good basis on which to carry on its new tasks. The President delivered his 62nd radio chat before a crowd of some 200 visitors composed of LP leaders, high government officials, and members of the press and radio. He showed little or no trace¹ of emotion as he read his speech before the simple narra desk given him as a gift by reporters covering Malacañan. His voice was full and steady throughout the delivery of his speech. He closed his radio chat with a hopeful note, and wished that “God guide the new administration and preserve our Republic.” The President said: “On this hopeful note, which is simply a variation on the spirit and theme of the holiday season, I now beg, beloved-countrymen, to take leave.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5326-5330, for the full text of the radio chat.)

After the President had delivered his 19-minute radio chat, he entertained the press with a buffet dinner. Later, he gave an informal press conference.

December 16:

The President received the resignation papers of the members of the Integrity Board: Justice Luis P. Torres (chairman), Mariano de Joya, Solicitor General Juan R. Liwag, Mrs. Pilar Hidalgo Lim, and Jose P. Bengzon. The President went into his routine conference with Executive Secretary Roque before receiving some callers in the morning.

December 17:

The President started working early in the morning on some pardon cases recommended by the Board on Pardons and Parole. At 11 a.m., he motored to Novaliches with his daughter Vicky and granddaughter Marivic. He brought along with him three big bundles of official papers including a number of pardon cases. He worked on them with Juanito C. Gella, in the afternoon and in the evening. He spent the night in Novaliches in an effort to work undisturbed on pending state papers.

December 18:

The President approved the retirement of Civil Service Commissioner Jose Gil effective December 30, 1953. In a letter sent to Commissioner Gil, the President said that he was mindful of the Commissioner’s “exceptionally meritorious services to our government and our people all these years and which have helped immeasurably in making possible the implementation of the merit system in the government service.” He told Commissioner Gil that he has the sincerest appreciation for the Commissioner’s valued loyalty and integrity.

Speaking extemporaneously before the delegation of the members of the Philippine Society of Civil Engineers, which called on him to pay their respects on the eye of their two-day annual convention starting the next day, the President appealed to the civil engineers to continue doing their shares in order to strengthen the groundwork of the economic development of the Philippines. He said that the acceleration of the country’s industrialization will provide the people with a life of substance and contentment and will prevent the growth of communism in the country. President Quirino expressed the desire that the coming administration will step up the tempo of the work which he had begun along the lines of hydroelectric plant construction, irrigation system, and the industrialization of the country. He said his great ambition in life was to be remembered as the irrigation builder of the country. For this reason, he said, he had concentrated his efforts in the construction of irrigation system in strategic regions of the country, especially in the regions of production. As a result of the many irrigation systems now being operated, the agricultural production of the country has greatly increased to the point of self-sufficiency in our agricultural products, he pointed out.

The Cabinet took up the matter of the NARIC. It was brought out at the Cabinet meeting that about the middle of October 1953, former Gov. Gabriel Belmonte had ceased to be chairman of the board of directors of the NARIC. He

was replaced by Fernando Bitsuego, a member of the board. Belmonte had also resigned as general manager of the NARIC and is now on terminal leave. The NARIC board of directors selected Vicente R. Concepcion, assistant manager, as acting general manager in place of Belmonte. It was also brought out that as far back as December 3, 1952, the President had directed the board of directors of the NARIC. to dismiss from office 11 officials and employees and to suspend for three months one employee. Another employee was given a reprimand and a warning. These employees had been found guilty of anomalies and irregularities in the NARIC.

December 19:

The President held a breakfast conference with Defense Secretary Oscar Castelo who returned from the United States the preceding day. Castelo rendered his report to the President on his mission in connection with the \$345 million additional payments to Philippine war veterans. He said he had succeeded in laying the groundwork for the negotiations for the grant to the Philippines of additional veterans payments and that the way is now paved for the incoming administration to follow it up.

December 20:

The President laid the cornerstone of the Roxas Memorial Theater at the corner of Taft Avenue and Isaac Peral at 10 a.m. Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, widow of President Roxas and a member of the Roxas Memorial Commission, assisted President Quirino during the rites. In his address, the President said that now "we all can take pride in the fact that we have been responsible for contributing to the awakening of the new Filipino culture. He said the construction of the multi-million-peso Roxas Memorial Theater rounds off the country's full development. The memorial theater, he said, will accelerate the national growth in art and culture which has been long delayed by the efforts exerted in the economic and political fields in the country since liberation.

After the ceremonies, at the old UP campus on Taft Avenue and Isaac Peral, the President motored to Novaliches where he had luncheon with General Calixto Duque and Mayor Ignacio Santos Diaz of Quezon City. In the afternoon, he resumed work on pending official papers and petitions for pardons. He returned to Malacañan at 7 in the evening. He continued working on official papers until late at night.

Malacañan announced that the Government's fertilizer plant at Maria Cristina, Lanao, has started selling its manufacture to agricultural producers. Two substantial orders for 600 bags of 50 kilos a bag of the "Tower Brand" sulphate of ammonia fertilizers were filled by the Maria Cristina fertilizer plant for the Ken-Ram (Philippines) Inc. and the Philippine Ramie Corporation for their big plantation of kenaf and ramie in Gotabato, Mindanao.

December 21:

The President issued Proclamation No. 430 declaring Saturday, December 26, a special-public holiday to enable the people to enjoy an uninterrupted Christmas holiday." In his proclamation, the President explained that inasmuch as Christmas Day falls on Friday and that the 27th of December is Sunday, the intervening Saturday could be declared a public holiday without prejudice to public interest.

December 22:

The President during the Cabinet meeting appointed a two-man committee to study the lease of the TV tower to Judge Antonio Quirino, who owns the television station DZAQ-TV. A letter had been received from the U. S. Embassy in Manila admitting the omission of the 300-foot homing tower in the list of equipment turned over to the Philippine government under the Air Service Agreement. The Embassy letter dated, November 5, 1953, was referred to the Cabinet by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The committee composed of Acting Justice Secretary Roberto Gianzon and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven will study the legal aspects of the lease in view of the fact that the homing tower was not among the equipment listed under the Air Service Agreement between the U. S. and the Philippine governments. In the absence of any memorandum receipt, the homing tower which was not included in the listed equipment, was considered surplus material by the Board of Liquidators when it was leased.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the general manager of the National Power Corporation seeking to amend the agreement entered into between the Republic of the Philippines and the National Power Corporation on the one part and the Export-Import Bank of Washington on the other. The National Power Corporation in its proposed amendment to the agreement entered into on July 23, 1953, wishes to extend the availability of a credit line of \$20 million by the Export-Import Bank in favor of the NPC beyond December 31, 1954, because several payments to contractors will fall beyond that date.

The members of the Integrity Board and its secretary called on the President to inform him they are winding up their affairs before they leave on December 30, 1950. In an hour conversation with them, the President said the board had done much to elevate the prestige of the government. He congratulated the Integrity Board for "a job well done," saying: "You have rendered a patriotic and dependable service to the country. You have done everything to insure that there was nothing irregular in your investigation of charges against public officials. I am convinced that you have done your best. Your recommendations have always been followed by me."

The President left for Novaliches at 4 p.m. with Assistant Private Secretary Juanito C. Gella to work undisturbed on pending papers.

The traditional annual Christmas festival was held promptly at 3 p.m. Thousands of Manila's underprivileged children trooped to Malacanah to receive gifts from Mrs. Vicky Quirino-Gonzalez, Malacañan's official hostess.

December 23:

The President ordered the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, to assist, aid, and/or take over the operation of the Metropolitan Water-District. The directive was made in Administrative Order No. 232 signed by the President during the Cabinet meeting as a result of the strike declared this day by laborers in the MWD. The assistance, aid, and/or operation of the MWD by the Armed Forces was requested by the general manager of the MWD as essential to the continued operation of the water system of Manila and the vicinity.

The Cabinet authorizing the National Power Corporation to issue bonds in the amount of ₱6 million for the construction of the second unit of the Maria Cristina Falls hydroelectric project. The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank said the financing of this unit will not adversely affect the international position of the country since the dollar requirements for the importation of the capital equipment may be drawn from the proceeds of the loan obtained from the Export-Import Bank in the amount of \$20 million.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of an agricultural school of the Munoz type on the site of the San Ramon Penal Colony in Zamboanga City. The penal colony will be transferred to the Davao Penal Farm. The Cabinet, moreover, approved the proposal of the Philippine Veterans Board to create a Veterans' memorial building to house the offices of the Philippine Veterans Board, the Board of Pensions for Veterans (of the Philippine Revolution), and such private accredited veterans organizations in the Philippines. The Secretary of National Defense recommended a portion of Fort Santiago to be allotted as site for the proposed building in view of the historical significance of the fort. The Public Works Act provides about ₱1 million for the construction of the Veterans Memorial Building, subject to the availability of funds.

December 24:

The President planned for Baguio about 10 a.m. to spend the Christmas holiday at the Guest House with his family. He will be joined in Baguio by the immediate members of his family where they will hold a Christmas family reunion. Before leaving Malacañan, the President signed the appointment of Carlos Lazo, former Baguio councilor, as Baguio vice mayor. He also took up briefly official matters with Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and Education Secretary Cecilio Putong. The President arrived in Baguio at 11:25 a.m.

Moved by the Yuletide spirit, the President extended before his departure for Baguio executive clemency to 173 prisoners. Of this number, 68 received ordinary pardons; 79, absolute pardons; 16, special absolute pardons; and 10, commutation of sentences.

December 25:

Malacañan issued the following Christmas message of the President to the nation: “To all our people I tender every good wish for a happy holiday season. The core and substance of Christmas is hope to every man, bond or free, and it is for that hope that man can survive through most anything. I believe our country is due for still better days, and that is because our people have hope and will continue to work not only for peace and plenty within their borders but also for understanding and cooperation in a world striving to remain hopeful and free. Christmas continues as will a free and courageous citizenry.”

The President led the nation in the traditional Filipino way of observing Christmas by hearing the midnight mass (December 24) with immediate members of his family at the Guest House in Baguio, topped off by a light *media noche* snack. He spent the whole Christmas Day quietly at the Guest House with members of his family. Aside from close friends, he did not receive callers.

December 26:

The President returned to Malacañan from Baguio at 11:45 a.m. Included in the President’s group which arrived aboard the presidential plane *Laong Loan* were Mrs. Vicky Ouirino-Gonzalez, Primitivo Lovina, Baguio vice mayor Carlos Lazo, and Presidential Aide Major Luis Adea. The President was met at the Nichols airbase by some members of the Cabinet and leaders of the Liberal Party. In the evening the President had a long huddle with Speaker Eugenio Perez over Liberal Party matters.

December 21:

The President spent his quiet Sunday—his last Sunday as President of the Philippines—in his country home at Novaliches. With his architect, Jose Zaragoza, he inspected his country home which is still under construction. Then he repaired to his study room and unpacked a pile of official papers requiring his action before the turn-over. He worked on the papers till past 12 noon. He rested briefly in the afternoon and returned to Malacañan at about 7 p.m.

December 28:

The President granted conditional pardon to 52 Japanese prisoners of war whose death sentences had been commuted under certain conditions to life imprisonment on June 27 last and who had been repatriated to serve their sentences at the Sugamo Prison in Japan. Executive clemency was granted these 52 Japanese war prisoners upon the recommendation of the Japanese government on condition that they will never come back to the Philippines. The grant of executive clemency becomes effective upon acceptance, by the prisoners concerned.

President Quirino plunged into heavy administrative Work in his determination to clear the desk of all important pending matters before turning over the affairs of the government to the new administration on December 30 noon. After eating his breakfast early in the morning, he immediately went to his private study in Malacañan Palace and started poring over piles of papers. He was assisted by Executive Secretary Marciano Roque and Assistant Private Secretary Gella.

December 29:

President Quirino held the last meeting with his Cabinet at 12 noon and took stock of the accomplishments of his six-year administration. He told his Cabinet: “Our administration has been efficient and effective. We have brought industry and progress to this country from the prostrations of War. We are proud of our accomplishments, although politics and partisanship is trying to rob us of the credit, going as far as characterizing our administration as corrupt. I am sure none of you could be branded as corrupt official.”

The Cabinet received the report of Acting Secretary of Justice Roberto A. Gianzon and Budget Commissioner Pio Joven on the homing tower leased to television station DZAQ. The report was referred to the Department of Foreign

Affairs for action. The Cabinet approved the proposal to transfer to the Bureau of Public Schools without cost the site formerly occupied by the San Ramon Penal Colony in Zamboanga City, including existing facilities and improvements, provided that the City of Zamboanga will finance the expenses for the transportation of some 300 prisoners from San Ramon to Iwahig Penal Colony in Davao. The Cabinet also approved the sale of treasury bills in the amount of ₱15 million to refund the issues maturing on January 6, 1954, in view of the need for conserving the cash of the general fund in the national treasury for the current general operations of the government.

The Cabinet submitted their resignation en masse personally to the President and they were accepted effective at noon, December 30. The Cabinet members thanked President Quirino for the opportunity given them to serve the country with him. President Quirino in turn expressed satisfaction with the work of his Cabinet and thanked them for their cooperation.

Shortly before the meeting of the Cabinet at noon, President Quirino received members of the diplomatic corps and their ladies who called on him to extend their thanks and good wishes on his last working day in Malacañan. In a brief speech delivered by Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi on behalf of the 16 foreign representatives accredited to the Philippine Government, the dean of the diplomatic corps thanked President Quirino for his kindness and understanding in his dealings with them during his incumbency. The Papal Nuncio also expressed gratitude to Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde and Undersecretary Felino Neri, as well as to the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who "have left nothing undone to make our task easier and more pleasant." President Quirino in his response thanked them for their call. He said that although their visit would be their last association with him, he would always be ready to cooperate with them in any way in his capacity as a private citizen and as a friend.

President Quirino after receiving the members of the diplomatic corps received a delegation composed of national executives of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines who called to present him with a plaque and a scroll of recognition for his outstanding service in the promotion of the scout movement in the Philippines. President Quirino thanked them for their appreciation of the help he had extended to the cause of scouting during his incumbency. He also thanked the scout executives for the cooperation they had given him in carrying out some of the projects of the government.

December 30:

President Quirino got up from bed unusually early on his last day in office as President of the Philippines. After receiving some callers about 8 a.m., he summoned the Palace household at the reception hall and gave them his parting advice: "Be loyal to my successor as you have been loyal to me." Headed by the Palace housekeeper, Mrs. Basilio Valdez, some 30 Malacañan waiters gathered around President Quirino. Visibly moved, he thanked the boys for their "honesty and devotion to duty."

About 10:30 a.m., President-elect Ramon Magsaysay arrived at the Palace to fetch outgoing President Quirino for the Presidential inauguration. Riding with them in the presidential car which took them to the Luneta were Senator Francisco A. Delgado; Finance Secretary Aurelio Mantinola; President Quirino's aide, Lt. Col. Jose P. Cardenas; and President-elect Magsaysay's aide, Col. Napoleon Valeriano. When they reached the Luneta, the President and the President-elect alighted from the car at the same-time and walked together to the thunder of 21-gun salute. Facing the Filipino flag which had just been raised to a high pole in front of the grandstand, the two of them saluted the flag. Then President Quirino boarded his private car, and motored to his country home in Novaliches where his friends prepared a picnic for him.

Shortly after President-elect Magsaysay had gone up the grandstand, the inaugural ceremonies began. The military parade started immediately. Following the parade, the invocation by Archbishop Rufino Santos, and the oath-taking of Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, President Ramon Magsaysay took his oath of office before Chief Justice Ricardo Paras. Then the more thunderous 21-gun salute from the warships in Manila Bay was heard to announce the beginning of the term of the new President.

Then President Ramon Magsaysay delivered his eight-page inaugural address which took him 25 minutes to read. Before a mammoth and enthusiastic crowd at the Luneta, the biggest ever to attend a President's inauguration, the third President of the Republic said: "Our people, united and free, shall shape a future worthy of our noble heritage if we but act; act together; act wisely; act with courage; and act unselfishly, in a spirit of dedication." The new President said his administration would take positive measures to improve the lot of the people in the barrios and the working men in the urban and industrial centers. He also:

1. Pledged to gather around him "men of integrity and faith"—men who "including myself, shall cease to belong to our parties, to our families, even to ourselves;"
2. Pledged to extend the protection of the law to everyone, fairly and impartially, and to uphold the Bill of Rights and the other liberties guaranteed by the Constitution;
3. Expressed his hope that there would be an intimate cooperation between him and the members of Congress on whom he is counting for the prosecution of "our common program, of honest, efficient, and constructive government;"
4. Urged the development of national economy so that it may better satisfy the material needs of the people;
5. Reiterated his promise of improving the living conditions of the barrio people, of laborers in the industrial centers, and to help the citizens in general attain economic well-being essential to the enjoyment of civil and political rights;
6. Pledged to continue the present national policy to cooperate with the United Nations in seeking collective security and a just world peace;
7. Laid down a firm policy of not appeasing the Hukbalahaps even as lie called upon the dissidents still hiding in the mountains to surrender.

President Magsaysay assumed office with a promise of a bright future for the nation in a regime dedicated to democracy and the common *tao*'s welfare. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5331-5334, for the full text of the inaugural speech.)

After delivering his inaugural speech, the President went down the grandstand toward his car, but the enthusiastic crowd of well wishers who wanted to shake hand with him made it impossible for him to reach his car for some 20 minutes. The President arrived at Malacañang about 1 p.m. from the Luneta. He had to stop at the Palace gates, as hundreds of well wishers were gathered there to greet him. Security guards who attempted to form a cordon around him were helpless, for the people surged toward him and all wanted to shake hand with him. After the President had succeeded in freeing himself from the crowds, he walked to the Palace door where an honor guard, the 19th BCT, awaited him. After acknowledging the ruffles and flourishes of the guard of honor, the President, accompanied by his family, mounted the Palace steps.

At 2:30 p.m., the President went down the social hall where he lunched with his family. Also with him at the lunch table were Senator and Mrs. Glaro M. Recto. After lunch, the President administered the oath of office to seven members of the Cabinet, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas as chief of staff of the armed forces, and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao as vice chief of staff.

At 4 p.m., the President motored to the Luneta where he placed a wreath at the foot of the Rizal monument. Then he proceeded to Taguig, Rizal, where he inaugurated the first of the artesian wells he promised to construct during his administration. He returned to Malacañang at 6:45 p.m. and went directly to the presidential bedroom. When he learned that some newsmen wanted to see him, he told his aide to allow his callers to see him in his bedroom.

In green-striped cotton pajamas, the President greeted the newsmen despite the fact that he was feeling tired from the rigors of the day. His hands were aching and he felt a slight headache, he said. He offered the reporters soft

drinks and sandwiches. He even asked them to try to lie in the famous ₱5,000 bed. Because he was not feeling well, the President could not attend the social functions held in the evening in connection with his inauguration.

December 31:

The President motored to Cavite to inquire about the election day terrorism in Bacoor, leaving Malacañang at 5 a. m. and upsetting palace old-timers who had never previously seen a Chief Executive start off to work at that early hour. Even close members of the President's staff, used to his rigorous pace, did not expect him to move out to work so early after the grind of the previous day. As a result, only a few security guards were on hand to accompany him. The President visited the families of poll terrorism casualties in Bacoor last election day and inquired about the circumstances which surrounded the killings. He promised the bereaved families that quick justice would be meted to the killers. The President's first step was at the Vulcan sector headquarters at Lido Beach near Cavite City. He conferred with Maj. Laureano Marania and other officers regarding banditry and cattle rustling. He issued orders for the detail of one PC company under the leadership of efficient PC officers in Bacoor. He also ordered Maj. Marania to detail constabulary men at the house of Antonio San Jose, a principal witness of the slaying of Atty. Delfin Gawaran's father at Barrio Dicman in Bacoor.

Hundred of radiograms from heads of state and from friends here and abroad felicitating President Magsaysay on his inauguration as third President of the Republic and extending him their best wishes for the New Year continued to pour into Malacañan title whole day. Vice President Richard Nixon of the United States expressed regret for having been unable to congratulate, the President personally on his inauguration. Nixon expressed confidence that President Magsaysay's assumption of office would begin a new era of progress and greatness for "America's sister republic in the Pacific."

President and Mrs. Ramon Magsaysay gave a buffet luncheon at the social hall of Malacañang in honor of distinguished guests who attended the inauguration ceremony on the Luneta the preceding day. Among those included in the long guest list for the affair were Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Joseph Swing, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Leland S. Hobbs, Vice President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, Former President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, General and Mrs. Emilio Aguinaldo, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Mrs. Deilie R. Mendoza, Speaker and Mrs. Eugenio Perez, the Chief Justice and Mrs. Ricardo Paras, members of the Cabinet, members of Congress, and some members of the foreign diplomatic corps and top brass of the Philippines and U. S. armed forces.

The President issued the following New Year's Day message:

"The New Year beckons to us with limitless promise. We have won the opportunity really to start anew, plan anew, build anew. The limit to what we can do will be set only by our own capacity for work and our boldness in meeting every problem and challenge.

"But just as our opportunities are limitless, so will their fulfillment demand the most that is in us. We will have to work—work without let-up and without fear, work as much as endurance will permit. In that way alone can we hope to realize the great things that await us.

"It is in this spirit of confidence and expectancy that I wish our people a most happy new year."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

